DEKALB
OBITUARY
AUBURN
2009
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OBITUARIES

DEKALB COUNTY, INDIANA

January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009

These obituaries were extracted from

THE STAR, Auburn, Indiana

Patricia Watson Dyson

On behalf of the DeKalb Genealogy Society
Auburn, Indiana
2009

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These obituaries are from THE STAR, Auburn, Indiana.
I cut and pasted these on pages and compiled an index.
I have made every effort for accuracy and do apologize for errors or omissions.
These obituaries are of DEKALB COUNTY and DEKALB COUNTY connections.

Patricia Watson Dyson

Joan LeRoy

AUBURN — Joan C. LeRoy, 67, of Auburn died Wednesday, December 31, 2008, at the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. LeRoy

She worked as a secretary for Halex Die Casting in Cleveland, Ohio, worked for 10 years at the Greenhurst Country Club in Auburn, and also worked for 16 years at DeKalb Financial in Auburn.

She was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, the St. Michael's (Hicksville, Ohio) Fraternity of Secular Franciscan, Tuesday night Prayer Group at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Harvest House of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Auburn and St. Joseph Catholic Church of Garrett, Vintage Club, and the Living Rosary Association.

In her younger years, she enjoyed ice skating, boating, traveling and biking. Then in her later years she enjoyed reading, biking, working in the yard, and spending time with grandchildren.

She was born on December 14, 1941, in Cleveland, Ohio, to Alex and Helen (Zaricki) Sadowski. Her father preceded her in death, and her mother survives in Pepper Pike, Ohio.

She married John E. LeRoy on June 25, 1960, and he survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are three sons and a daughter-in-law, Donald LeRoy of Auburn, David and Diane LeRoy of Auburn, and James LeRoy of Ft. Wayne; two daughters and sons-in-law, Sherry and John O'Maley of Glenview, Illinois, and Renee and Jerry Irvin of Indianapolis; two brothers and one sister-in-law, Thomas J. and Janet Sadowski of Mentor, Ohio, and Michael J. Sadowski of Pepper Pike, Ohio; three sisters and one brother-in-law, Eleanor L. Albrecht of Mentor, Ohio, Alicia H. and David Whalen of Phoenix, Arizona, and MaryAnn Sadowski of Bozeman, Montana; and five grandchildren, Allie LeRoy, Andy LeRoy, Kathreen LeRoy, Nicholas Irvin, and Gregory Irvin.

Services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn. Father David Carkenord will officiate. Burial will be in the Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 2–4 and 6–8 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The rosary will be recited at 6 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery Fund.

Dorotha Wilkinson

WESLACO, Texas — Dorotha "Dottie" Wilkinson, 92, of Weslaco, Texas, formerly of Auburn, died Sunday, Dec. 28, 2008, at Knapp Hospital, Weslaco, Texas.

She was a teacher at McKinney Harrison School for over 30 years.

Mrs. Wilkinson

She was a member of Eastern Star and the ACD Women's Association, and affiliated with the Auburn Presbyterian Church.

On Dec. 19, 1917, she was born in Marion, Ind.

Surviving are: a son, James Wilkinson, in Texas; a daughter, Linda Madansky, in Florida; three grandchildren; and six great grandchildren.

Her husband, James Wilkinson, preceded her in death.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at McComb Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with Rev. Dale Hamrick officiating. Burial will be in Estates of Serenity in Marion.

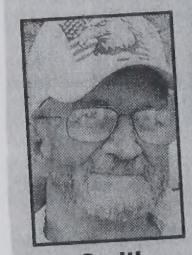
Calling will be today from 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home with Eastern Star service at 7:30 p.m.

Memorials are to the Auburn Presbyterian Church in Auburn.

Kenneth Smith

KENDALLVILLE — Kenneth D. Smith, 75, of Kendallville died Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2008, at 7:25 a.m. in Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Mr. Smith began working for Bell Telephone in 1955 in Kendallville. He retired from Bell South, which is now AT&T.



Mr. Smith

He was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville, and was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War.

He was born April 22, 1933, in Kendallville to Warren Nelson and Viola Mae (Hammel) Smith.

Surviving are two daughters, Diana Smith of Wolcottville and Cynthia Moore of Kendallville; three sons and three daughters-in-law, Kelvin "Kelly" and Tammy Smith of Kendallville, Monty and Wendy Smith of New Mexico, and Timothy and Mary Smith of Fort Wayne; two stepdaughters, Susan Cockerham and Breanna Dukes, both of Mississippi; 12 grandchildren; two stepgrandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; a sister and brother-in-law, Phyllis and Gene Lash of Kendallville; and a brother and his companion, Jimmy Smith and Willa Goodman of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Marjorie (Reecer) Smith Wallace; two sisters, Evelyn Gibson and Janice Thacker; a brother, Max Smith; a granddaughter; and his companion, Nancy Dory.

Private funeral services will be held with Pastor Mike Albaugh officiating. Military services will be conducted by VFW Post 2749, Kendallville.

Calling will be from 3-7 p.m. today at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville.

Memorials are to the donor's choice.

View a video tribute or send condolences to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

George Iddings

AUBURN — George Byron Iddings, 77, died Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2008, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn. He retired in 1996 from Dana Corp. in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Iddings was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean conflict.

He was a member of the Avilla American Legion Post 240, LaGrange Gas and Steam Association and Cedar Creek Engine Club.

He formerly had attended Indian Village Church of God.

He was born Feb. 10, 1931, in Avilla to Robert and Mary (Christlieb) Iddings. He married Beverly Grogg Shoudel on April 1, 1977, in Auburn and she survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Michael Iddings of Turkey Lake and Gary and Linda Iddings of Pleasant Lake; a daughter and son-in-law, Brenda and Ronnie Cooper of Butler; a stepson, Ron Shoudel and Val Pineiro of Ashley; two stepdaughters, Diane and Jerald Scott of Auburn and Sandy and Dexter Brown of Waterloo; 15 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; a brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Wanda Iddings of West Virginia; and five sisters and a brother-in-aw, Sandra Rutherford of Albion, Wanda Cowley of LaGrange, Linda Dilly of Auburn, Lois and Hal Harp of Kendallville and Blanch Iddings of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Donald Iddings; and a stepdaughter, Laurie Ann Haiflich.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn. The Rev. Sam Weimer will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Barbara Sexton

KENDALLVILLE — Barbara Jo Sexton, 73, of Kendallville died on Thursday, January 1, 2009, at Avalon Village in Ligonier, where she had resided the past nine years.

Mrs. Sexton

Mrs. Sexton was born in Alpharetta, Kentucky, on March 3, 1935, to Jobie and Lula (Thompson) Prater.

She was married to Aaron Sexton on September 8, 1954, in Floyd County, Kentucky. He preceded her death August 16, 1992.

She had worked at various nursing homes in the area and McCray Hospital for many years as a nurse's aide.

Barbara had a very strong faith and was a member of the Assembly of God in Kendallville.

She dearly loved the Christmas holiday, cooking Southern food and being with her family.

Survivors include her daughters, Nyra and Lon Wright of Elkhart, Indiana, and Tammy Sexton and her companion, Doug Spidel, both of Kendallville; a special granddaughter, Chelsey Erinn Wright of Elkhart; eight brothers and their spouses, Don Prater of Allen, Kentucky, Eugene and Willie Prater of Douglasville, Georgia, Dockie "Bog" and Jackie Prater of eastern Kentucky, Richard and Glema Prater of Kendallville, Sonny Prater, Michael Prater of Auburn, David and Deb Prater of Rome City and Ronnie Prater of Kendallville; five sisters and their spouses, Joyce Reade of Kendallville; Billie Anne and Jack Rowe of Louisville, Kentucky, Janice and Danny Simmons of Kendallville, Diane and Mark Reid of Kendallville, and Brenda and Hank Ochoa of Butler.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Ted Prater and Joseph "Pee Wee" Prater; and infant sisters, Virginia and Dorothy.

Visitation will be Sunday, January 4, 2009, from 2-8 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Monday, January 5, 2009, at 11 a.m. at Hite Funeral Home.

Officiating the funeral service will be Rev. Michael Stanley.

Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville, Indiana.

Pallbearers will be Lon Wright, Doug Spidel, Randy Smith Sr., Mike Prater, David Prater, Ronnie Prater, Danny Simmons and Carl Sexton Sr.

Preferred memorials may be made to Riley Hospital for Children.

View a video tribute by Sunday or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Betty Bryant

AUBURN — Betty L. Bryant, born to Ora Vina (Caudill) Bryant and Phillip M. Bryant on April 22, 1958, in Hazard, Ky., went peacefully in her sleep Friday after a courageous battle with cancer.

Betty was a devoted daughter, sister, aunt and friend. She cared about everyone.

Betty was a barrel of fun to her nieces and nephews who loved to spend nights with her watching movies and playing games.

There were no vacations for Betty without the children tagging along.

Betty loved to read, especially Stephen King and Dean Koontz. She liked to collect lighthouses, Emmet Kelley clowns and Christmas decorations. She loved to listen to the "Bob and Tom Show" and laugh about it with her family.

She had a great sense of humor and she could dish it out and take it, too.

Betty loved to visit with her friends daily at the Retreat. She loved her animal friends, too.

Betty loved family get-togethers. She enjoyed visiting relatives and the beauty of the mountains of southeastern Kentucky. Her favorite place was the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Betty worked 32 years at Sunny Meadows residential home and enjoyed the various personalities who resided there.

Betty is survived by her mom; dad; sisters, Dora J. Harris (William), and Ora G. Williams (Randy), brother, James P. Bryant (Heather); nephews, Curtis A. Bryant (Samantha), Matthew W. Stahl (Samantha), Brandon J. Bryant, Bradley T. Bryant, Derek C. Williams and Kramer R. Kiser; nieces, Mary B. Bryant (Kenneth), Natalie A. Stahl and Landry B. Kiser; great-nieces, Kaitlynn M. Messmann, Olivia J. Stahl, Zella G. Stahl and Faith M. Harrell.

Betty was preceded in death by her grandparents, James and Chloe Caudill and James and Melva Bryant; a brother, Philip M. Bryant Jr.; and an infant niece, Ora G. Williams.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, with Dr. Robert Craig officiating.

Calling will be from 2-6 p.m. Sunday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, Auburn.

Memorials are to the charity of the donor's choice.

THE EVENING STAR

January 4 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Jeweler 'never wanted to retire'

BY JENNY KOBIELA-MONDOR
jennyk@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — On the day Owen Eckert died, he went to work in downtown Auburn, just as he had done countless times since 1944.

The 81-year-old had been slowing down for some time, but even with heart problems, he still found time to work at his jewelry shop. He told his wife, "I'm too young to retire."

Mr. Eckert died Nov. 5, 2008, of cardiac arrest.

"He loved his work," said Eckert's wife of 58 years, Carma-Jean. "He never wanted to retire."

"He loved to visit with his customers," she added. "A lot of them had been with him for a long, long time, and he was always eager to visit with people, whether they were old customers or new customers."

Mrs. Eckert said her husband felt especially compassionate toward his elderly customers, who could barely pay for food and medicine.

"He would cut the price to nearly nothing to fix watches," she said, sometimes even doing the work for free.

"He was very, very friendly and outgoing, and liked people in general," Mrs. Eckert added.

Owen Eckert began working for C.W. Creasy Jewelry in downtown Auburn in November 1944, and except for serving in the European Theater of World War II for a little over a year, he had been working in downtown Auburn ever since. He bought Creasy's store, in the back of the Auburn State Bank, and renamed it Eckert's Jewelry in 1956. He moved it to 110 N. Main St. in 1958.

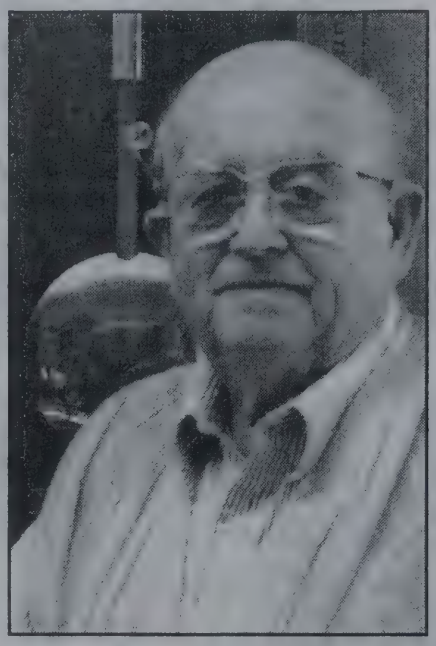


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mr. Owen Eckert

Mr. Eckert especially loved working with watches and clocks, Carma-Jean Eckert said. He took great pride in working on the Hahl pneumatic clock in the DeKalb County Courthouse.

"He had been taking care of it for a long, long time, and then he had a heart attack and was sick and wasn't able to care for it," Mrs. Eckert explained. "He was so upset when he went back, because it was all messed up. He was very, very upset about that."

After that, Mr. Eckert found another jeweler to take under his wing and teach about the clock.

"The other jeweler, he did the work and Owen was the brains, and told him what to do and how to do it," Carma-Jean Eckert said. "They worked together on it this last time, and he felt very secure turning it over to him."

But Mr. Eckert was more than just a jeweler. He was a farmer, and spent 35 years working the land and raising cattle at the farm near Waterloo.

"Farming relaxed him," Carma-Jean Eckert said.

Eventually, his health concerns forced Eckert to replace farming with tending a garden and raising cattle to rescuing dogs, but the Eckerts continued to enjoy life on their farm.

More than anything, Eckert was a family man, his wife said.

"He was an excellent husband. He loved his family, and he was very thoughtful and caring," she said. "He loved to cook and was a very good, very excellent cook, especially preparing meats and things like that for the holidays."

In addition to his wife, Mr. Eckert is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Dennis and Laura Eckert and Dalen and Debra Eckert; a grandson and his wife, Justin and Rachel Marie Eckert; a granddaughter, Rachel Nicole Eckert; and two stepgreat-grandsons, Steve and Gavin.

"It's been hard," Carma-Jean Eckert said of the loss of her husband. "I sure miss him."

Lois Yarde

AVILLA — Lois E. Yarde, 90, died Saturday, Jan. 3, 2009, at Betz Nursing Home, Auburn.

She was a homemaker and a bookkeeper for Arthur Yarde and Sons Inc., retiring in 1988.

Mrs. Yarde

She attended Cedar Lake Church of the Brethren in Auburn.

On April 11, 1918, in Garrett, she was born to Harry and Bertha (Olinger) Deihl. She married Arthur L. Yarde on July 15, 1937, in Harlan. He preceded her in death on Aug. 29, 1996.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Harry Lee and Peg Yarde, Fort Wayne, and Roy A. and Nancy Yarde, Avilla; seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, a daughter, Sally Anderson, a grandson, Todd Yarde, three brothers and four sisters.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with Pastor Paul Stauffer and Chaplain Paul Marki officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Cedar Lake Church of the Brethren or DeKalb County Home Health and Hospice.

Condolences may be sent to or sign on the online guest book at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Ervin Weaver

FORT WAYNE — Ervin L. "Pete" Weaver, 80, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Garrett, died Monday, Dec. 29, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital surrounded by his family.

Mr. Weaver worked as a printer most of his life.

He was born Nov. 19, 1928, in Williamsport, Pa.

He is survived by his wife, Ann, of Fort Wayne; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Wayne "Bud" and Lori Weaver of Garrett and Ervin "Pete" Weaver Jr. of Indianapolis; two daughters and sons-in-law, Gloria and Henry Temple of Garrett and Shawn and Bryan Gumbert of Fort Wayne; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Charles and Ginny Weaver of South Whitley and Ollie and Doris Weaver of Placentia, Calif.; a sister and brother-in-law, Cindy and Tim Heffley of Auburn; eight grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Helen Snyder; a daughter, Darlene; and a son, Gary.

Covington Memorial Funeral Home, 8408 Covington Road, Fort Wayne, is in charge of arrangements.

Memorials are to Riley Hospital for Children or SPCA of Fort Wayne.

Online condolences may be sent to www.covingtonmemorial.com.

THE EVENING STAR
January 6 2009 Auburn, Indiana

W.P. Lingle

RICHMOND — W.P. "Bill" Lingle, 94, died January 2, 2009, at Arbor Trace Rehabilitation Center.

He was born October 28, 1914, in Edon, Ohio, and was the second son of William Clayton and Christina Zeeb Lingle. He married June Dunn from Waterloo, Indiana, on June 21, 1936, and in his earlier years worked with his father at the Lingle Coal Yard in Edon.

Mr. Lingle

In 1950, the family moved to Richmond and Bill opened the three Dairy Queen stores that are still operating today. Bill got into the real estate business in 1958 and founded Lingle Real Estate in 1959. He was active in the real estate community for over 40 years, a 70-year member of the Masonic Lodge in Edon and an active member for over 50 years of First English Lutheran Church.

June and Bill had four children who survive them: Gary and his longtime partner Sheila Wilson, Paul and his wife Pat, Christie Close and her husband Max, and Bill and his wife Kim. His seven grandchildren brought him much joy: Julie Lingle Gardner and her husband Phil of Missoula, Montana, Laurie Lingle Luth and her husband Thorn of Denver, Colorado, Sarah Close Benza of Cincinnati, Jacob Close and his wife Tory of Springboro, Ohio, Whitney Lingle, William Lingle and Hank Lingle. He also loved being a great-granddaddy to his nine great-granddaughters: Stella, Lorraine and Mabel Gardner, Audrey and Charlotte Luth, Amelia and Cecilia Benza, and June and Avery Close.

Bill is survived by a number of nieces, nephews and one very loving and loyal friend, Mary K. Reitenour, who has become a special member of his family.

June and Bill were married almost 64 years when she died on April 2, 2000. She could not have had a better caretaker during the last challenging years of her life. He was preceded in death by his brother, Marion Lingle.

Bill's last outing was to attend the dedication of Lingle Auditorium at the new Reid Hospital. It was a wonderful occasion for him.

Bill had often said that no one could have had a better life than he. We could not have had a better father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle and friend. We'll miss him.

The family would like to express their appreciation for the wonderful care Bill received during his stays at Reid Hospital and from the staff at Arbor Trace during the past 16 months.

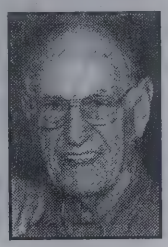
Visitation for W.P. "Bill" Lingle will be from 4-7 p.m. Thursday, January 8, 2009, at First English Lutheran Church, 2727 National Road East, Richmond. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Friday, January 9, 2009, at the Church with Rev. John Walker and Rev. Brian Derrer officiating. Burial will be in Lutherania Cemetery. Doan & Mills Funeral Home, 790 National Road West, Richmond, is in charge of arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to First English Lutheran Church, 2727 National Road East, Richmond, IN 47374 or Reid Hospital Foundation, 1100 Reid Parkway, Richmond, IN 47374.

Leonard Leichty

LEO — Leonard John Leichty, 85, died Tuesday, January 6, 2009, after a brief stay in Kingston Assisted Living Memory Care Center in Fort Wayne, Ind.

He was born on April 3, 1923, in Grabill, Ind., to the late Dan and Alma (Yoder) Leichty. He married Carolyn Hartzler on January 16, 1954, in Topeka, Ind.



Mr. Leichty

Surviving are his wife, Carolyn Leichty of Leo; two sons and daughters-in-law, Phillip and Renell Leichty of Leo and LaMar and Laura Leichty of Auburn; and five grandchildren, Megan, Emilee, Jacob, Logan and Shelby.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, Myrl Leichty, and three sisters, Samilda Leichty, Kathryn Lovett and Evelyn Ridgway.

Leonard retired from farming but continued to help his sons farm until 2005. In the past, he drove a truck for County Line Cheese and was in construction.

He was a member of the North Leo Mennonite Church.

Calling will be held on Saturday from 3-7 p.m. at North Leo Mennonite Church.

Services will be held on Sunday at 2 p.m. with calling one hour prior at the church. Pastor Brent Leichty will officiate.

Burial will be in Leo Memorial Park Cemetery.

Memorials are to Parkview Home Health & Hospice, 1900 Carew St., Suite 6, Fort Wayne, IN 46805; North Leo Mennonite Church, Box 213, Leo, IN 46765; or to the donor's choice.

Arrangements are by Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, Spencerville, IN.

Ida Scott

BUTLER — Ida M. Scott, 92, of Butler died Monday, Jan. 5, 2009, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

There are no visitation hours or funeral services planned.

Arrangements are by H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler.

THE EVENING STAR
January 8 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Berniece Jones

AUBURN — Berniece Frieda Jones, 94, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Auburn died Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Jones attended school in Garrett and graduated in 1932. She was a homemaker.

She was a member of the Indian Village Church of God in Auburn.

She was born Feb. 21, 1914, in rural Garrett to Aaron and Artie (Weller) Pound. She married Alvin Luther Jones in Garrett on June 8, 1935. He died after 59 years of marriage on Feb. 9, 1994.

Surviving are a daughter, Frieda May Smigelski of Wisconsin; a son and daughter-in-law, Edwin Paul and Sharon Jones of Florida; two daughters-in-law, Betty Jones of Garrett and Beverly Jones of Auburn; and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; two sons, Alvin Jones and Dale Jones; a daughter, Mary Lallow; and a sister and her husband, Mary Effie and Harold Wilcoxson.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. Lloyd Harlan will officiate. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery, rural Garrett.

Calling will be from 5-7 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association or the American Diabetes Association.

Rose Jones

AUBURN — Rose H. Jones, 98, passed away Wednesday evening, Jan. 7, 2009, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Rose was a member of the Congregational Church (United Church of Christ) in Cathlamet, Washington, and attended New Hope Christian Center for the last 10 years, since moving to Indiana.

Mrs. Jones

Rose was a gifted person, given to much encouragement and hospitality. She loved the Lord and all people.

She loved music and always played piano by ear and sang in public.

She was a 50-year member of the Elochoman Grange in Cathlamet. She was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

She is survived by one son and daughter-in-law, Randall and Joanne Stout of Bellingham, Wash.; one devoted daughter and caregiver and a son-in-law, Sharon and Billy Joe Servis of Waterloo; five stepdaughters; 28 grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Marion and Hattiet (Flynn) Porter, and her husbands, Ora Wood, Ralph Stout, Walt Tibbs and Ivan Jones. She was also preceded in death by a son, Jerry Wood; a daughter, Elaine Brister; a stepson, Victor Stout; two brothers, Clint Porter and Ted Porter; and three sisters, Pearl Allen, Grace Yule and Mabel Haga.

There will be no visitation or funeral service because all of her living relatives reside on the West Coast. A celebration of her life may be held in the future.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo is in charge of arrangements.

Memorials are encouraged for DeKalb Memorial Home Health and Hospice, the Betz Nursing Home activity fund or D.A.R.T., the Heimach Center van service.

Lloyd Rowe

AUBURN — Lloyd M. Rowe, 88, of Auburn died Friday, January 9, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Rowe was a lifetime DeKalb County farmer. He also was a school bus driver for the DeKalb Central School District for 17 years, retiring in 1999.

He was a member of the Auburn Church of the Nazarene and the Odd Fellows Lodge.

He was born July 30, 1920, in DeKalb County to Dayton and Nellie (Smith) Rowe.

He married Dolores M. Farver on October 15, 1939, in Auburn. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Michael D. and Nancy Rowe of Auburn and Steven M. and Sally Rowe of Auburn; four grandchildren, Eric and Chris Rowe of Auburn, Vicki Harmes of Howe, Tabitha Rowe of Auburn and Derek Rowe of Auburn; nine great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; one niece and spouse, Michelle and Jim Bauman of Auburn; a sister-in-law, Virginia Wilbur of Auburn; and two nephews and a spouse, Kevin Wilbur of Auburn and CoLynn and Sue Bender of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Ralph Rowe.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Dan White officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

Carl Everage

AUBURN — Carl L. Everage, 48, of Auburn died Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009, at his home in Auburn.

Mr. Everage worked for the I.S.I. Corp. in Butler.

He was born Feb. 7, 1960, in Auburn. He married Barbara Everage in Auburn on Nov. 24, 1986. She survives.

Also surviving are his mother, Verna (Metzinger) Morrow of Garrett; two daughters, Natasha Everage and her fiance, Nate Fredrick, and Brittany Everage, all of Auburn; a son, Carl Ray Evanoff of Auburn; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Melissa and Bill Ridenour of Garrett, Sheila and Joe Chew of Auburn and Olive and John Wilson of Butler; three brothers and two sisters-in-law, Kenneth and Carol Evanoff of Garrett, Gus and Molly Morrow of Garrett and Jack Morrow of Garrett; and two grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jack Morrow.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Sam Steiner officiating.

Calling will be from 2–6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Esther Keller

FORT WAYNE — Esther Delight Keller, 91, of Pine Island, Fla., died Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009, at St. Anne's Nursing Home, Fort Wayne.

A graveside service will be held at Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn, on Saturday, Jan. 17, at noon, Pastor David Sodderly will be officiating. A fellowship luncheon will follow at Soul's Harbor Assembly of God church in Auburn.

Donations may be given to Family Hospice of Northeast Indiana, 265 W. Water St., Berne, IN 46711, or Soul's Harbor Assembly of God, 3810 C.R. 40A, Auburn, IN 46706.

Lopshire loved people and life

BY JIM SHILANDER
JIMS@KPCNEWS.NET

WALL LAKE — Friends say Steven Lopshire earned his nickname, "Smiley," because of a sunny disposition.

Lopshire, 65, died Dec. 26, after a brief battle with lung cancer. Lopshire was an active part of the Sons of The American Legion at the Orland American Legion Post No. 423, and a member of the Legion Riders.

Bill McClanahan of Orland said one of Lopshire's co-workers at National Serv-All in Fort Wayne gave Lopshire the nickname.

"He just, wherever he went, always had a smile on his face," McClanahan said. "Steve had lots of friends. Anybody that ever knew him, they liked him."

John McLaughlin of Angola knew Lopshire since high school and worked with him for 30 years. He said Lopshire's mood made him a natural salesman.

"He liked people, he was a people person," McLaughlin said. "He just had that upbeat personality. He knew no strangers. I never heard him say anything bad about anybody, and he always had a wisecrack. That's the way he was his whole life."

Lopshire's adopted sister, Joyce Erler of Wall Lake, said there's was a unique relationship.

"He was the youngest," Erler said. "I was adopted into the family at 5-years-old. I was his older sister by two months, but he was always like a big brother." Because the two were so close in age, they did most everything together. "We were always competitive, he was my rock," Erler said. "He was my protector. We went out on (double) dates together. I was able to go out on dates a little earlier than I would have because I had to take him with me." The difference in their ages also allowed Erler and Lopshire to have some fun with their teachers growing up, she said.

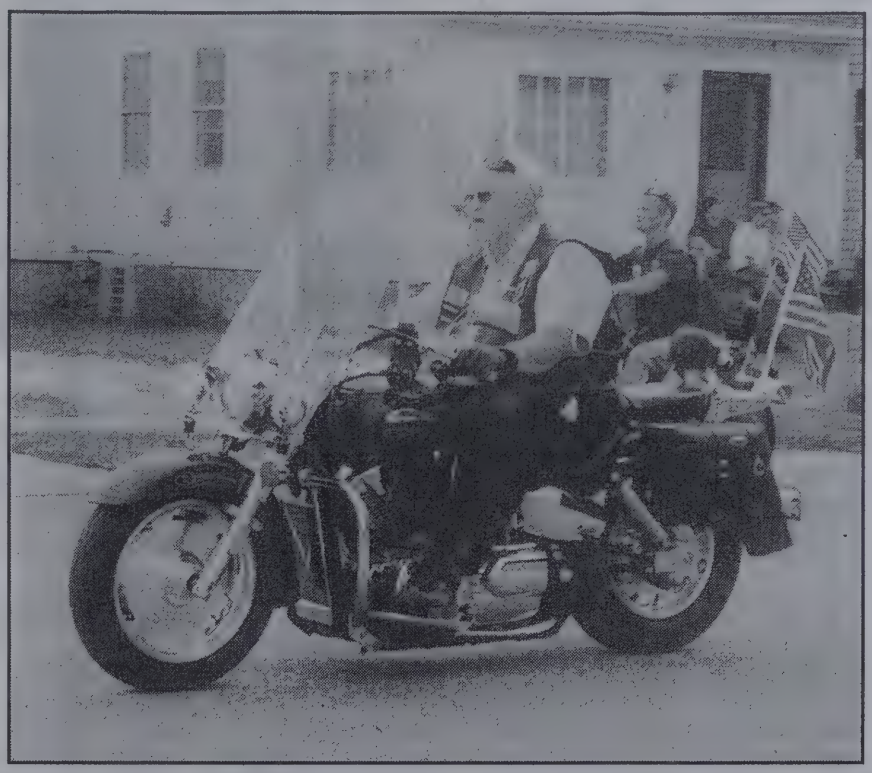


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Steven Lopshire of Orland threw himself into his life as a member of the Orland American Legion riders after getting his motorcycle at 60. Friends said Lopshire rarely missed an opportunity to ride in funerals or civic events.

Lopshire held a number of different jobs, especially after moving to the Steuben County area on a full-time basis. Erler said her brother loved that many of his jobs involved driving, and would take him throughout the area. "He loved the road," Erler said. "He loved driving." Lopshire especially loved taking back roads around the area to view the area's natural beauty. "He loved nature, the birds the trees. He used to always take me around the back roads, he said that's where you could see everything."

That love of the road extended to motorcycles, which Erler said her brother had loved since he was a teenager. However, their mother forbade him from getting one. "My mom was kind of domineering," Erler said. Lopshire finally got his motorcycle at age 60. McClanahan said he actually ended up trading out his motorcycle.

"When he bought his first one, he said it wasn't fast enough," he said. McClanahan, a fellow Legion rider, said Lopshire pretty much threw himself into riding. "He was very serious about it. He rode as an escort for a lot of funerals, and he did nearly every poker run and things like that," McClanahan said. "He obviously respected the soldiers. He was very proud of the U.S.A."

THE EVENING STAR

January 11 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Lois Johnson

BUTLER — Lois M. Johnson, 80, died Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009, at the Laurels of DeKalb County Nursing Home, Butler.

Mrs. Johnson

She was born on Aug. 9, 1928, in Franklin Township to Harold L. and Alice G. (Ridge) Newcomer.

A graduate of Hamilton High School, Lois worked at Indiana & Michigan Electric Co;., Universal Tool and Stamping, and for 50 years she served the community with her husband Reynold Johnson, managing H. E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home.

Lois married J. Reynold Johnson on Aug. 20, 1952 in Butler. He preceded her in death on June 18, 2003.

Lois was an avid gardener, enjoyed cooking and spending time with family.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Renee and Dave Harpster of Auburn and Lisa Johnson of Butler; two sons and daughters-in-law, R. Jon and Mary Ann Johnson of Angola and Eric and Deborah Johnson of Butler; two special grandchildren, Riley and Makailah Thompson of Angola; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Barbara Taylor of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, and Shirley and Dave Hamilton of Belton, Mo.; and a brother and sister-in-law, Dale and Karen Newcomer of Hamilton.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother-in-law James Taylor.

Funeral services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at H. E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Kevin Marsh officiating.

Calling will be from 2-7 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery.

Preferred memorials are to the Eastside Volleyball Program or Kidney Foundation.

Condolences may be sent and a video tribute viewed at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Esther Keller

FORT WAYNE — Esther Delight Keller, 91, of Pine Island, Fla., died Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009, at St. Anne's Nursing Home in Fort Wayne.

She was born Dec. 17, 1917, to Howard and Edith (Loins) Holmes in Auburn.

She married Ralph Keller on June 20, 1937. He preceded her in death.

The Kellers moved to Pine Island in 1972, where Mrs. Keller lived until 2005. She then moved back to Fort Wayne due to health issues and to be closer to her family.

Mrs. Keller was a member of the Baptist church in St. James City, Fla. She loved to dance and play bingo. She was a member of several clubs in St. James City.

Survivors include two sons and a daughter-in-law, Kevin Keller of Auburn and Ken and Sherry Keller of Fort Wayne; three grandchildren and their spouses, Shae and Jenn Keller of Charleston, S.C., Staci and Don Galligher of Fort Wayne and Kristi and Christopher Stull of Auburn; a great-granddaughter, Kendon Galligher; and a great-grandson, Mikel Stull.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, two sisters, Wilma Dove and Margaret Esselburn, and a grandson, Brian Keller.

Graveside services will be held at Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn, on Saturday, Jan. 17, at noon, with Pastor David Snodderly officiating. Following at 12:30 p.m. will be a fellowship luncheon at Soul's Harbor Assembly of God church in Auburn. It is open to all family and friends.

Donations may be given to Family Hospice of Northeast Indiana, 265 W. Water St., Berne, IN 46711 or Soul's Harbor Assembly of God, 3810 C.R. 40A, Auburn IN 46706.

Lee Stackhouse

FORT WAYNE — Lee Wayne Stackhouse, 68, of Fort Wayne, formerly of Barton Lake, died Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009, at the Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home, Fort Wayne.

Mr. Stackhouse

On June 29, 1940, in Angola, he was born to John and Lois (Buechat) Stackhouse. He married Delores "Dorie" Evelyn Weibel on Nov. 5, 1965, in Fort Wayne. She survives in Fort Wayne.

He was a retired electrician with Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation at the Lawton Park offices.

Mr. Stackhouse graduated from Salem Center High School and was a U.S. Army veteran. He was a member of the 40&8, the Angola V.F.W. post, Orland American Legion Post 423 and current post Adjutant, and a member of the post military color guard.

He was also a member of the Orland American Legion Riders, and served the post in many other capacities including post liaison for Boy Scout Troop 423, and committee member of Americanism & Government. He was a lifetime member of the St. Joe Valley Conservation Club, and enjoyed hunting, fishing and sporting clay, trap and skeet shooting.

Surviving, in addition to his wife, are a daughter, Carrie Shurtz, Fort Wayne; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Tim Stackhouse, Fort Wayne, and Lee Allen and Chris Stackhouse of Florida; three grandchildren, Sonja and Ben Laisure, Madison Shurtz and Zachery Stackhouse; and one great-grandson, Aurie Laisure.

His parents preceded him in death.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Beams Funeral Home, Fremont, with Chaplain Mike Collins officiating. Military Committal Services will be conducted by members of Orland American Legion Post 423. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery, Corunna.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Red Cross or Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home.

Condolences may be sent online to www.beamsfuneralhome.com.

Lois Johnson

BUTLER — Lois M. Johnson, 80, died Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009, at the Laurels of DeKalb County Nursing Home, Butler.

Mrs. Johnson

She was born on Aug. 9, 1928, in Franklin Township to Harold L. and Alice G. (Ridge) Newcomer.

A graduate of Hamilton High School, Lois worked at Indiana & Michigan Electric Co., Universal Tool and Stamping, and for 50 years she served the community with her husband Reynold Johnson, managing H. E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home.

Lois married J. Reynold Johnson on Aug. 20, 1952, in Butler. He preceded her in death on June 18, 2003.

Lois was an avid gardener, enjoyed cooking and spending time with family.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Renee and Dave Harpster of Auburn and Lisa Johnson of Butler; two sons and daughters-in-law, R. Jon and Mary Ann Johnson of Angola and Eric and Deborah Johnson of Butler; three grandsons, Chad Harpster of Leo, and Jared and Zachary Johnson of Butler; two special grandchildren, Riley and Makailah Thompson of Angola; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Barbara Taylor of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, and Shirley and Dave Hamilton of Belton, Mo.; and a brother and sister-in-law, Dale and Karen Newcomer of Hamilton.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother-in-law James Taylor.

Funeral services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Kevin Marsh officiating.

Calling will be from 2-7 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery.

Preferred memorials are to the Eastside Volleyball Program or Kidney Foundation.

Condolences may be sent and a video tribute viewed at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Butler man dies in fiery crash

ANGOLA — Police have released the name of a Butler man who died in a wreck Saturday afternoon in Angola.

Brandon T. Shook, 19, died in a fire in his vehicle in a wreck police said was caused by excessive speed and snowy road conditions.

At about 2:08 p.m. Angola police were dispatched to investigate a single vehicle accident west of the intersection of U.S. 20 and C.R. 200W in Angola, said an Angola police news release.

Officers found the vehicle on the south side of U.S. 20 completely engulfed in flames.

Angola firefighters were called to the scene, and police determined the driver perished in the fire.

Roads were snow-covered and slick and snow was falling heavily at the time.

Brandon Shook

BUTLER — Brandon Shook, 19, died Saturday in an automobile wreck near Angola.

Mr. Shook was a 2008 graduate of Eastside High School. He worked for Maintenance on Wheels and was a member of the Butler Fire Department.

Mr. Shook

He attended church at the Ashley Church of God.

He was born on June 18, 1989, in Connersville to Jon and Denise (Haynes) Shook. They survive.

Also surviving are two brothers, Devin and Jon Michael Shook of Butler; his grandparents, Ron and Judy Shook of Garrett and Rick and Pauletta Black of Clarkton, Mo; a special friend, Miranda Shelton of Salem Center; uncles and aunts, Todd and Emily Boicourt of Centerville, Ind., and Ron and Margie Shook of Economy, Ind., Tom and Susie Shook of Hagerstown, Ind., Marc Shook of Garrett and Patricia Hurley of Richmond; and several cousins.

He was preceded in death by a grandfather, David Haynes, and an uncle, John Haynes.

Memorial services for Brandon Shook will Friday, January 16, 2009, at the Butler Church of Christ beginning at 2 p.m. with Pastor Robert Neace officiating.

Calling will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday at the church.

Preferred memorials are to the family.

Arrangements are by H.E. Johnson Funeral Home, Butler.

Condolences may be sent and a video tribute viewed at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Bruce Custer

GARRETT — Bruce W. Custer, 61, of Garrett died Monday, Jan. 12, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Rosemary Gerig

AUBURN — Rosemary S. (Sheets) Gerig, 75, died Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009, at Wabash County Hospital in Wabash.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Dayspring Community Church, 1700 E. 7th St., Auburn. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery at Auburn.

Calling will be 2-8 p.m. Wednesday at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Memorials are to Shelter Ministries.

Barbara Park

FORT WAYNE — Barbara A. Park, 62, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Auburn, passed away Thursday, Dec. 18, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was a homemaker and a member of Joy Fellowship Church.

Mrs. Park

She was born Oct. 9, 1946.

She was a loving wife, mother and sister and will be missed.

Leaving behind her husband of 28 years, Jerry Park of Fort Wayne; a son, Terry (Sarah) Park of Fort Wayne; stepsons, Michael (Angie) Park of Wilshire, Ohio, James Park of Michigan, Robert (Candy) Park of Oregon, Thomas Park of North Carolina and Mickey (Amber) Park of Fort Wayne; brothers, Bill and Mark Amstrong, both of Auburn and Dale Armstrong of Columbia, Ohio; sisters, Carroll Stafford of Ashley and Diana Armstrong of Fort Wayne; 11 grandchildren, two unborn grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Susana Armstrong and Buford Armstrong.

A memorial service will be Saturday at 2 p.m. at Joy Fellowship Church, 109 Moeller Road, New Haven, with Pastor Matthias Sondennly officiating. A gathering of family will be one hour prior to the service.

Arrangements are by the family. Memorials are to the family.

Robert Rink

AUBURN — Robert E. "Bob" Rink, 85, of Auburn died Monday, Jan. 12, 2009, at his home.

Mr. Rink had been a purchasing agent with Dana Corp. for more than 35 years, retiring from there in 1982.

He was a 1941 graduate of Auburn High School. He served in the U.S. Army from 1942-1946 during World War II as a sergeant with the Army's railroad.

Mr. Rink

Mr. Rink was a member of the Indian Village Church of God in Auburn.

He was born Sept. 10, 1923, in Garrett. He married Josephine Ramsey on Jan. 18, 1942, in Auburn. She died in December 2001.

Surviving are three daughters and two sons-in-law, Linda Zern of St. Joseph, Mich., Thelma and Larry Huss of Palmetto, Fla., and Candice and Daniel Kruse of San Antonio, Texas; a sister-in-law, Dolores Chorpenning of Albion; eight grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, Marion Rink; a half sister, Pat Springman; and two half brothers, Earl Chorpenning and Dick Chorpenning.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Indian Village Church of God in Auburn.

Calling will be from 10-11 a.m. Friday at the church.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Cancer Society and the Diabetes Association.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Rosemary Gerig

AUBURN — Rosemary S. (Sheets) Gerig, 75, died Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009, at Wabash County Hospital in Wabash.

Mrs. Gerig had been a teacher at McKinney Harrison School for 29 years, retiring in 1998.

She was the former organist at and member of Dayspring Community Church, the Retired Teachers Association, Ladies Bible Study, Delta Kappa Gamma, Kenwig's Liter Club and the Writers Group.

She had served on the board of directors of the former Creative Play School and the Shelter Ministries.

Mrs. Gerig was a 1951 graduate of Avilla High School and 1955 graduate of Ball State University. She received a master's degree in 1971 from St. Francis College.

She was born in Garrett.

Surviving are a son, Roger L. Gerig of Waterloo and a daughter, Rhoda Gerig of Wabash.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ardon B. Gerig in 1995, and three brothers, Donald, Warren and Dwight Sheets.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Dayspring Community Church, 1700 E. 7th St., Auburn, with the Rev. William Lyne officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. today at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, and one hour prior to services Thursday at the church.

Memorials are to Shelter Ministries.

Esther Keller

FORT WAYNE — Esther Delight Keller, 91, of Pine Island, Fla., died Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009, at St. Anne's Nursing Home in Fort Wayne.

She was born Dec. 17, 1917, to Howard and Edith (Leins) Holman in Auburn.

She married Ralph Keller on June 20, 1937. He preceded her in death after 54 years of marriage.

The Kellers moved to Pine Island in 1972, where Mrs. Keller lived until 2005. She then moved back to Fort Wayne due to health issues and to be closer to her family.

Mrs. Keller was a member of the Baptist church in St. James City, Fla. She loved to dance and play bingo. She was a member of several clubs in St. James City.

Survivors include two sons and a daughter-in-law, Kevin Keller of Auburn and Ken and Sherry Keller of Fort Wayne; three grandchildren and their spouses, Shae and Jenn Keller of Charleston, S.C., Staci and Don Galligher of Fort Wayne and Kristi and Christopher Stull of Auburn; a great-granddaughter, Kendon Galligher; and a great-grandson, Mikel Stull.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Wilma Dove and Margaret Esselburn; and a grandson, Brian Keller.

Graveside services will be Saturday, Jan. 17, at noon in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn, with Pastor David Snodderly officiating. Following at 12:30 p.m. will be a fellowship luncheon at Soul's Harbor Assembly of God church in Auburn. It is open to all family and friends.

Donations may be given to Family Hospice of Northeast Indiana, 265 W. Water St., Berne, IN 46711 or Soul's Harbor Assembly of God, 3810 C.R. 40-A, Auburn IN 46706.

THE EVENING STAR

January 14 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Chad Showen

KENDALLVILLE — Chad Edward Showen, 36, of Kendallville died Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009, in Garrett.

Services will be Saturday at 3 p.m. at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville.

Military services will be provided by VFW Post 2749, Kendallville.

Burial will be in New Albany National Cemetery in New Albany.

Calling will be from 1-3 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials are to the family.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Auburn residents' granddaughter killed

STOW CREEK TOWNSHIP, N.J. — The granddaughter of three Auburn residents was murdered Monday in her home in New Jersey, according to a Web site for the Bridgeton News.

Tara Hayes, 27, was killed by multiple gunshots late Monday morning, and her ex-boyfriend was arrested Tuesday and charged with murder, the Web site reported.

Hayes is the granddaughter of Howard and Kay Morton of Auburn and Martin Simmonds of Auburn.

Hayes also has aunts and cousins in the area, Kay Morton said. Hayes' mother, former Auburn resident Carmilla Simmonds, died last year.

Hayes' father, former Butler resident Harry Simmonds, lived with Hayes and her daughter, Shyla, 6, in Bridgeton, N.J., according to the Web site nj.com/bridgeton.

The Web site reports that Hayes was a student at Cumberland County College, in Vineland, N.J.

Police have arrested A.J. Eldridge Jr., 32, of Bridgeton as a suspect in the murder. The Web site said he is a bouncer at the Bridgewater Pub, attributing that information to Hayes' ex-husband, Bill Hayes Jr., 28, of Bridgeton.

The Web site said Hayes recently began an internship with the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department and was interested in a future in law enforcement, according to her ex-husband.

Harriet Loucks

ANGOLA — Harriet E. Loucks, 86, of Angola died Friday, Dec. 19, 2008, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Loucks had been a homemaker.

She was an active member of the Angola Women of the Moose and was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary of Post 31.

She was born Sept. 1, 1922, in DeKalb County to Seth and Effie (Fisher) Myers.

Surviving are her special friend, George Patterson, of Angola; a brother, Orla Myers of Fremont; a sister, Mildred June Hill of Williamston, Mich.; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Walter Loucks, on Jan. 10, 1980; five brothers; and a sister.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m Sunday at Pleasant Lake Methodist Church in Pleasant Lake with Pastor John Boyanowski officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Center Cemetery in DeKalb County.

Memorials are to the Angola Women of the Moose.

Weicht Funeral Home in Angola is in charge of arrangements.

Deloruse Young

KENDALLVILLE — Deloruse A. Young, 94, of Kendallville died Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mrs. Young worked at the P.N. Hirsh Co. department store in Kendallville for 20 years.

She was born in Lisbon on Oct. 16, 1914, to William and Hazel (Gillespie) Strouse. She married Otto Edward Young on April 14, 1936. He died Sept. 28, 1958.

Mrs. Young

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Sue Ann and Jack Jarrett of Kendallville; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; one sister, BettyShanton of Kendallville; and two daughters-in-law, Judy Young of Hudson and Star Young of Garrett.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; two sons, William Young and Jack Young; a brother and sister-in-law; Russell "Bud" and BettyStrouse; and a sister, Ruby Trowbridge.

Graveside services and burial will be at a later date at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Memorials are to the Humane Society of Noble County, 1305 Sherman St., Kendallville, IN 46755.

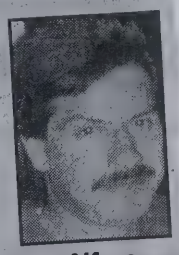
Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville is in charge of arrangements.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

José Alfaro

EDGERTON, Ohio — Jose G. Alfaro, 49, of Edgerton, Ohio, died at 1:18 p.m. on Monday, January, 12, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, Ind., where he was a patient. He had been ill several months.

Mr. Alfaro had been employed by Campbell Soup, DURA Corporation and, most recently, Air-Way Manufacturing in Edgerton.



Mr. Alfaro

He was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Edgerton.

Jose G. Alfaro was born on June 25, 1959, in Araro, Mexico, the son of Jose G. and Maria Lus (Garcia) Alfaro. He is survived by his father in Mexico; three brothers, Gabriel Alfaro of LaGrange, Indiana, Arturo Alfaro of Santa Cruz, California, and Tarciosio Alfaro of Morilea, Mexico; three sisters, Malena Alfaro of Sacramento, California, and Inez Alfaro and Yolanda Alfaro, both of Morilea, Mexico.

Also surviving is his longtime companion, Susan Hughart, of Edgerton; her children, Jessica (Scott) Sprunger of Butler, Indiana, and Tonya, (Jack) Spencer of Summersville, West Virginia; and her grandchildren, Jordan and Tristan, Sprunger and Benton Spencer.

He was preceded in death by his mother and a brother, Eugenio Alfaro.

Services for Jose G. Alfaro will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. in St. Mary Catholic Church, Edgerton, with Father Stephen Schroeder officiating. Burial will follow in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Edgerton.

Visitation will be held in Krill Funeral Home, Edgerton, from 4-8 p.m. Friday, with recitation of the rosary at 8 p.m.

Memorials in the name of Jose G. Alfaro may be given to a charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent to or the online register signed at www.krillfuneralservice.com

Mae McDannold

GARRETT — Mae J. (Hathaway) McDannold, 66, of Fort Wayne died at 11 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009, at her residence.

Mrs. McDannold was a nurses aide and computer operator most of her life.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Garrett.

She was born June 5, 1942, in Garrett to Elmer P. and Laurine B. (Dowend) Hathaway. She married Roger D. McDannold on Jan. 1, 1979, in Garrett. He survives in Fort Wayne.

Also surviving are four brothers, Eston Hathaway of Indianapolis, Clifton Hathaway of Fort Wayne, DeWayne "Bud" Hathaway of Garrett and Eugene "George" Hathaway of South Whitley; three sisters, Faith Galligher of Angola and Janet Scheurich and Cindy Myers, both of Garrett.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Richard Hathaway; and a sister, LaCleeda Maurer.

Services will be at 5 p.m. Saturday at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with the Rev. Gordon Samra officiating.

Calling will be from 3-5 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home of Fort Wayne.

Send a condolences or sign the online register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

THE EVENING STAR

January 16 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Tara Hayes

STOW CREEK TOWNSHIP, N.J. — Tara A. (Simmonds) Hayes, 27, of Stow Creek Twp., died Monday, January 12, 2009.

Born in Point Pleasant, N.J., she was the daughter of Harry A. Simmonds and Carmilla K. "Candy" (Morton) Simmonds. Her father survives in Stow Creek and her mother preceded her in death in February of 2008.

Ms. Hayes

She was a 1999 graduate of Cumberland Regional High School in Upper Deerfield Twp., N.J., and was a student at Cumberland County College where she was studying criminology, sociology and psychology. She expected to receive her associate degree in May.

In addition to being a student, Tara had worked for Hoodocks Custard Stand in Salem, N.J.,for many years and most recently had been working for PSEG in Lower Alloways Creek Twp., N.J., as a fire protection specialist and in the maintenance department.

Tara also enjoyed working for herself as an interior decorator.

Her family was always the center of her life, especially her daughter Shyla. She and her daughter enjoyed many days exercising, dancing and baking together. Tara was a friend to many and will sadly be missed by all those who knew her.

She is also survived by her daughter, Shyla K. Hayes, at home; her daughter's father Bill "Hank" Hayes and his family; two sisters, Heather E.K. Pino and her husband Joseph A. of Winslow Twp., N.J., and Crystal S. Simmonds of Stow Creek Twp.; paternal grandfather, Martin Simmonds of Auburn, Ind.; maternal grandparents, Kay and Howard Morton of Auburn, Ind.; and maternal great-grandfather, Clarence Beck of Ohio; great-aunts and great-uncles, Ellen and Byron Beck and Leila and Lonnie Furrow; an aunt and uncle, Elaine and Larry Warstler; and by a large extended family and friends.

A memorial service will be tonight at 7 p.m. at the Freitag Funeral Home, 137 W. Commerce St. in Bridgeton, N.J.

Calling will be from 5-7 p.m. tonight at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are to the Shyla K. Hayes College Fund, c/o TD Banknorth, 2700 Route 42, Sicklerville, NJ 08081.

Condolences may be sent online to freitagfuneral-home.com.

Charlotte Krueckeberg

KENDALLVILLE — Charlotte Ann Krueckeberg, age 82, of Kendallville died on Thursday, January 15, 2009, at Shepherd of the Hill nursing home in Kendallville.

Mrs. Krueckeberg was born in Vallejo, California, on June 6, 1926, to Max Dix and Mary Blanche (Crain) Smith Sr. and graduated from Herbert Hoover High School in 1942.

Mrs. Krueckeberg

She first married O.C. "Cal" Hershberger in Fort Wayne and he preceded her death on June 25, 1977.

She later married William Carl Krueckeberg and he also preceded her death on October 21, 2002.

Char will be remembered as a wonderful mother and homemaker.

She also was a secretary at Lutheran Hospital, and also worked at Sears and Hutner's Paris in Fort Wayne.

She was a member of the Zion Lutheran Church near Corunna. She was also a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 86 of Kendallville.

She loved fishing, reading and gardening.

Survivors include six daughters, Claudia Lynn and Denny Beck of Butler, Mary and Mick McOmber of Columbia City, Carol Ann Hershberger of Fort Wayne, Joey and Mike Bak of White Lake, Michigan, Diane and Art Suever of Fort Wayne and Debbie Hershberger and her fiance, Denny Miller, both of Huntington; a stepson, Jay and Lori Krueckeberg of Columbia City; a stepdaughter, Anne and Lenny Duff of Fort Wayne; seven granddaughters, Lori and Ryan Sholl of Hicksville, Ohio, Holly and John Sherman of Columbia City, Wendy and Chuck Rasche of Jasper, Jody and Joe Paris of White Lake, Heather and Tim Fry of Fort Wayne, Angela and Tony Ritchhart of Fort Wayne, and Melissa and Paul Miller of Indianapolis; three grandsons, Bob Beck of Butler, Kevin Bak of Orlando, Florida, and Mark and Diana Bak of Tucson, Arizona; 16 great-grandchildren, Kameron Beck, Colin Sholl, Taylor Gatwood, Dillon Rasche, McKenna Sherman, Lauren and Shea Paris, Logan and Landon Fry, Savannah and Preston Ritchhart, Natalie Miller, Riley Krueckeberg, and Camille, Danielle and Dillon Duff; and a sister, Patricia and William Forry of York Haven, Pennsylvania.

She was also preceded in death by parents; a brother, Max Dix Smith Jr.; a sister, Karen Vose; a lifetime friend, Darlene Heare; and great-grandson, Elliott Rasche.

Funeral services will be Monday, January 19, 2009, at 11 a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 0389 C.R. 12, Corunna, Indiana. Officiating the funeral service will be the Rev. Al Wingfield. Burial will be at Zion Lutheran Cemetery. Casketbearers will be Char's sons-in-law and grandsons.

Visitation will be Sunday, January 18, 2009, from 4-7 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St., Kendallville. There will also be visitation one hour prior to the funeral service at the church on Monday.

Preferred memorials may be made to Zion Lutheran Church.

View a video tribute by Sunday or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

David Goings Sr.

AUBURN — David E. Goings Sr., 65, died Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009, at his home in Auburn.

Services will at 2 p.m. Monday at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. Dr. Robert Craig officiating.

Burial will be in South Milford Cemetery with military graveside services with the American Legion, Auburn.

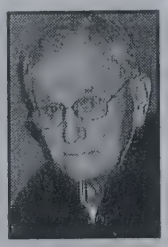
Calling will be 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday and one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Neil Prentice

ST. JOE — Neil A. Prentice, 86, of St. Joe died at 2:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Prentice was a farmer and had worked for the DeKalb County Highway Department mowing along county roads in the summer months.



Mr. Prentice

He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, serving in the Infantry from 1942-1946.

Mr. Prentice was formerly on the Concord Township Advisory Board. He was a member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Garrett.

He was born Jan. 29, 1922, in Fairfield Township near Corunna to Marvin A. and Alma A. (Ewell) Prentice. He married Doris E. Rossow on Jan. 15, 1947, in Detroit, Mich. She died Dec. 12, 2004.

Surviving are four sons and daughters-in-law, Michael and Kathleen Prentice of Kendallville, Lowell and Sheryl Prentice of Ashley, Leonard and Janet Prentice of Arab, Ala., and Roger and Jennifer Prentice, St. Joe; two daughters and sons-in-law, Marlene and Gary Carpenter and Carol and David Mansfield, all of Fort Wayne; 14 grandchildren; three stepgrandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; three stepgreat-grandchildren; a brother, Wallace Prentice of Kendallville; and a sister, Leona Becker of Kendallville.

He was also preceded in death by his parents and brother, Ralph Prentice.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Zion Lutheran Evangelical Lutheran Church in Garrett with Pastor Jeffrey Horn officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery near Corunna.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. Sunday at Thomas Funeral Home at Garrett, and one hour prior to services Monday at the church.

Memorials are to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Garrett.

Condolences may be sent online to www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Clifford Cox

AUBURN — Clifford Damon Cox, 76, of Auburn, died Thursday, January 15, 2009, at Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at McComb, Dilgard and Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Sedan Cemetery.

Calling will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

THE EVENING STAR
January 18 2009 Auburn, Indiana

'He told it how it was'

Bill Rivers helped make big changes at Serenity House

BY LINDSAY WINSLOW BROWN
lindsayb@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — His name was Bill, and he was an alcoholic.

Bill Rivers sobered up 23 years ago, on Christmas Eve, but the label of alcoholism stayed with him forever. He never denied his disease or that he always would be recovering from it.

He fought his disease with strong cups of coffee, by helping others who were like him and therapeutically talking about the 12-step program with friends and family.

Bill died "clean and sober" on Thanksgiving Day 2008 after a brief, but aggressive battle with lung cancer. He was 66.

His friends say he was proof that someone could overcome alcoholism.

Bill studied engineering at Tri-State University and later joined the U.S. Navy. One of his favorite jobs while in the Navy was making flight simulators for helicopters at Travis Air Force Base in California. He also spent time in the Carolinas and Fairfield, Calif.

While in California he got married and had two children, Gina and Bill. His marriage fell apart. Later, in the mid-1980s, when Bill was 42, he started attending Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

While searching for sobriety at the AA meetings, he found his future wife, Kelly, who was 22 years younger than him. On their first date, Kelly said, they went to his house and made Chinese food. After that meal, they were inseparable. She added that their age difference "never made a bit of difference."

Bill and Kelly attended AA meetings together — something she said strengthened their marriage. Bill had a heart for helping struggling addicts.

"When he and I moved into together, we had six guys living with us. It looked like a YMCA," said Kelly, who added that all the guys were recovering alcoholics. Bill allowed them to stay in his home as long as they didn't drink. Bill's friends say that he didn't turn away those in need.

Shortly after their son, Timothy, was born, the couple moved to Auburn in 1995. Bill got a job at Ben Davis as a car salesman, then retired within a couple of years. He also started volunteering at Serenity House, a long-term drug and alcohol recovery center in rural Auburn.

FILE PHOTO

Former Serenity House board of directors president Bill Rivers, left, and Matt Rice, Serenity House executive director, second from left, stand with Shelli Davidson and Steve Smith, house managers for the long-term recovery home, at the playground on the facility's grounds. Rivers died Thanksgiving Day 2008 and was a recovering alcoholic.

Bill got involved with the center's operations, as well as its board of directors, serving in every possible position.

"I learned more from him than I did my own family, my own father," said Serenity House director Matt Rice. "He was a big part of making big changes at Serenity House."

In his altruistic manner, Bill told it like it was and left little room for doubt. He told you what was on his mind, and if a problem surfaced, he pointed it out and worked to fix it.

Although Matt admits he and Bill didn't always get along, Matt said Bill helped him to develop as a director. The two would go out for lunch often, and their usual spot was J's Garden & Grill on Auburn's Main Street.

"Bill was old-school AA. He was pretty much in your face. You couldn't bull.... him," said his friend, Steve Smith, who came to Serenity House several years ago as a resident, but now works as a house manager.

Matt and Steve said Bill gave 100 percent. They told stories of Bill driving to pick up recovering alcoholics and others who were suffering.

"He told it how it was, but I laughed a lot with Bill, too," said Shelly Davidson, who used to work as a house manager at Serenity House.

When Bill was diagnosed with lung cancer in early 2008, Serenity House managers, directors and residents went to Bill's house to help with landscaping and home maintenance projects.

Matt, Steve and Shelly also accompanied Bill to his chemotherapy treatments. They described his treatments as upbeat, very spiritual and unlike anything they had ever experienced.

Kelly said Bill's kind attitude also inspired his doctor, who sent a card shortly after Bill's death.

"I didn't know what it meant to be a man," said Adam Bilbrey, who was a resident and currently is a house manager at Serenity House, "and Bill helped me."

David Goings Sr.

AUBURN — David E. Goings Sr., 65, passed away Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009, at his home in Auburn.

Born in Auburn, he was a truck driver with API for 10 years and Richards Restaurant, Auburn, for three years. He was a member of the American Legion Post in Garrett and First Christian Church of Auburn, and was in the U.S. Navy from 1962-1964.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara Goings of Auburn; children, David E. Goings Jr. of Butler, Loretta Albright-Goings of Butler and Mike Albright of Fort Wayne; grandchildren, Heather Turner, David Goings III, Denisia Albright, Kyle Winn, Jeremiah Shaw, Cherokee Goings, Paige Albright and John Goings; great-grandchildren, Cole Turner, Paul Jr., Sierra, Destiny and Desirae; siblings, Dorothy Hartman of Kendallville, Sue Price of Auburn, Tina Goings of Angola, Deb Hash of Michigan, Bea Goings of Auburn, Tammy Albright of Ohio, Patty Goings of Fort Wayne, Jeff Goings of Illinois, Richard Goings of Kendallville, Donny Goings of Illinois and Freddie Harter of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Clarissa Balzer Miller; father, Frederick Goings; a sister; and a half-brother.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with calling one hour prior, with the Rev. Dr. Robert Craig officiating. Burial will be in South Milford Cemetery, South Milford, with military graveside services by the American Legion post in Auburn.

Calling also is today from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Clifford Cox

AUBURN — Clifford Damon Cox, 76, of Auburn, died Thursday, January 15, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Cox was born May 14, 1932 in Coldwater, Mich.

He was a custodian at Fort Wayne Community Schools for 27 years and retired in 1995. He also was a Boy Scout leader. He was a member of the Church of Christ of Latter Day Saints in Kendallville. His hobbies were family and garage sales, and he was very helpful to others.

He is survived by his wife, Effie (Bailey) Cox of Auburn; two sons and daughters-in-law, Dan and Michell Cox of Avilla and Carl and Edie Cox of LaGrange; three daughters and sons-in-law, Barbara and Richard Reiff of LaGrange, Carol Ann Hopkins of Auburn and Lynn and Denis Miller of Corunna; four sisters, Beulah Sizemore of Colorado, Betty O'Conner of Pleasant Lake, Wava Jean McDonald of Auburn and Elizabeth Owens of Avilla; 21 grandchildren; and 33 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by five brothers, two sisters and one grandchild, Tony Allen Hopkins.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at McComb, Dilgard and Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Sedan Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 4-8 p.m. and Monday from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Agnes 'Mary' Hollis

GARRETT — Agnes M. "Mary" Hollis, 92, of Garrett died Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009, at Kendallville Manor in Kendallville.

Mrs. Hollis was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett, the Rosary Society and the Garrett Eagles Auxiliary.

She was born Sept. 3, 1916, in Ege to John J. and Rosalia (Konger) Molargik.

She married Andrew F. Hollis on June 21, 1940, in Ege. He died in 1996.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, James A. and Tonyua Hollis of Englewood, Fla.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Joyce and Jerald McBride of Garrett and Jean and Terry Frohriep of Swanton, Ohio; seven grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 11 a.m. Wednesday at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett with Father Nolasco Gomes officiating.

Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett.

Memorials are to Masses. Send a condolence or sign the online guestbook at thomasfuneralhome.org.

THE EVENING STAR

January 19 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Agnes Hollis

GARRETT — Agnes M. "Mary" Hollis, 92, died Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009, at Kendallville Manor, Kendallville.

She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett, Rosary Society and Garrett Eagles Auxiliary.

On Sept. 3, 1916, in Ege, she was born to John J. and Rosalia (Konger) Molargik. She married Andrew F. Hollis on June 21, 1940, in Ege. He preceded her in death in 1996.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, James A. and Tonyua Hollis, Englewood, Fla.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Joyce and Jerald McBride, Garrett, and Jean and Terry Frohriep, Swanton, Ohio; seven grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Garrett, with Father Nolasco Gomes officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett.

Memorials are to masses at the church.

To send a condolence or sign the guestbook online visit thomasfuneralhome.org.

Doris Beber

GARRETT — Doris A. Beber, 84, of Garrett died Monday, Jan. 19, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, Auburn.

Mrs. Beber was a secretary for the Roy Jones Dog Shows for 15 years. She was a member of the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett and also belonged to the Rosary Society. She was a member of the Garrett American Legion Auxiliary, and was a past member of the Eagles.

She was born July 8, 1924, in Garrett to Paul J. and Teresa G. (Johnson) Faust. She married Eugene J. Beber on Aug. 31, 1946, in Lansing, Mich. He survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Kathy L. and Jack Guthrie, Kendallville, and Debbie A. and Dale Pfeiffer, Garrett; two sons and daughters-in-law, Daniel J. and Regina Beber, Manassas, Va., and Paul L. and Bridget Beber, Garrett; 11 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, William P. Faust; a granddaughter, and a great-grandson.

There will be a private family burial Thursday in Calvary Cemetery, Garrett.

Memorials are to St. Joseph Catholic School or the Alzheimer's Association.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, is in charge of arrangements.

Julia Hoot

ROME CITY — Julia A. "Judy" Hoot, 65, of Rome City died Sunday, Jan. 18, 2009, in her residence at Jones Lake following a two-month illness.

Mrs. Hoot retired after 30 years of working in the office at Sears in Glenbrook Mall. She was a member of Fellowship Bible Church, Kendallville.

Her glory was her family. She was affectionately known as Grandma at the Lake by her great-grandchildren. She enjoyed fishing with her husband, and was one of the first women to participate in local bass fishing tournaments. She and her husband often took their bass boat to fish in Lake Erie, but she especially enjoyed going out in her pontoon on Jones Lake.

She also liked to cut and arrange the flowers that her husband planted and weeded. She wrote poetry and loved the Lord. But her passion in life was to tell others about Jesus.

Mrs. Hoot was born May 10, 1943, in Garrett to Wilbur and Janet (Sauder) Swander. On Nov., 15, 1959, in Garrett, she married Nick R. Hoot. He survives in Rome City.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Angela Brinkman, Battle Creek, Mich., and Norm Brinkman, LaGrange, and Christina and Todd Walters, Auburn; a son and daughter-in-law, Ronald and Melissa Hoot, Fort Wayne; five grandchildren, Nicole and Jeremy Meade, Heather and Jeremy Randol, Ryan Samuels, Adam Hoot and Jackie Hoot; seven great-grandchildren, Bryanna, Courtlan, Becca, Madison, Bryson, Dylan and Jacob; a sister and brother-in-law, Carole and Jack Reynolds, Auburn; and a brother and sister-in-law, Kim and Joan Swander, LaOtto.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Young Family Funeral Home, Wolcottville Chapel, S.R. 9, Wolcottville, with Pastor Tom Dyson of Fellowship Bible Church officiating. Burial will be in Orange Cemetery.

Casketbearers will be Todd Walters, Norm Brinkman, Jeremy Randol, Jeremy Meade, Adam Hoot, Lynn Reynolds and Brian Reynolds.

Calling will be from 2-7 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Fellowship Bible Church Building Fund.

View a video tribute or send condolences to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR
January 21 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Charles Fulmer

HICKSVILLE, Ohio — Charles L. Fulmer, 79, of Hicksville died suddenly at his home on Monday, Jan. 19, 2009.

He had retired as a layout inspector at ITT in Fort Wayne, Ind., after 50 years of service.

He was a U.S. Air Force veteran.

He was born on May 17, 1929, in Robertson County, Tenn., the son of Frank and Nola (Frey) Fulmer. He married Elsie E. Burch on July 8, 1950, in Washington, D.C. She died in 2002.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Kathryn and William Crites; a son, Ralph Stephen Fulmer, both of Hicksville; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; four sisters and brothers-in-law, Kathryn and Darwin Moses of Alamogordo, N.M., Marie and John Mathews of Manchaca, Texas, Evelyn and William Wilder of Columbia City, Ind., and Iva and Edward Ray of Fort Wayne; and a brother and sister-in-law, James and Dorothy Fulmer of Auburn, Ind.

He was also preceded in death by a grandson, T. J.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Smith & Brown Funeral Home in Hicksville with Gerald Bear officiating. Burial will be at Forest Home Cemetery at Hicksville.

Calling will be from 3-5 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday and after noon on Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the donor's choice.

Online condolences may be sent to www.smithbrownfuneralhome.com.

Julia Hoot

ROME CITY — Julia A. "Judy" Hoot, 65, of Rome City died Sunday, Jan. 18, 2009, in her residence at Jones Lake following a two-month illness.

Mrs. Hoot retired after 30 years of working in the office at Sears in Glenbrook Mall. She was a member of Fellowship Bible Church, Kendallville.

Mrs. Hoot

Her glory was her family. She was affectionately known as Grandma at the Lake by her great-grandchildren. She enjoyed fishing with her husband, and was one of the first women to participate in local bass fishing tournaments. She and her husband often took their bass boat to fish in Lake Erie, but she especially enjoyed going out in her pontoon on Jones Lake.

She also liked to cut and arrange the flowers that her husband planted and weeded. She wrote poetry and loved the Lord. But her passion in life was to tell others about Jesus.

Mrs. Hoot was born May 10, 1943, in Garrett to Wilbur and Janet (Sauder) Swander. On Nov., 15, 1959, in Garrett, she married Nick R. Hoot. He survives in Rome City.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Angela Brinkman, Battle Creek, Mich., and Norm Brinkman, LaGrange, and Christina and Todd Walters, Auburn; a son and daughter-in-law, Ronald and Melissa Hoot, Fort Wayne; five grandchildren, Nicole and Jeremy Meade, Heather and Jeremy Randol, Ryan Samuels, Adam Hoot and Jackie Hoot; seven great-grandchildren, Bryanna, Courtlan, Becca, Madison, Bryson, Dylan and Jacob; a sister and brother-in-law, Carole and Jack Reynolds, Auburn; and a brother and sister-in-law, Kim and Joan Swander, LaOtto.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Young Family Funeral Home, Wolcottville Chapel, S.R. 9, Wolcottville, with Pastor Tom Dyson of Fellowship Bible Church officiating. Burial will be in Orange Cemetery.

Casketbearers will be Todd Walters, Norm Brinkman, Jeremy Randol, Jeremy Meade, Adam Hoot, Lynn Reynolds and Brian Reynolds.

Calling will be from 2-7 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Fellowship Bible Church Building Fund.

View a video tribute or send condolences to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Helen Bussell

AUBURN — Helen L. Bussell, 88, of Auburn died Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Bussell was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn where she had served in the church choir, as youth Sunday school superintendent, a Bible school teacher, and belonged to Faith Circle.

Mrs. Bussell

Mrs. Bussell was born in Auburn on May 18, 1920, to Perry C. and Bernice (Weimer) Stebing. She married J. Philip Bussell on Nov. 23, 1938, in Auburn. He preceded her in death Nov. 23, 2001.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Jayne and David McClellan, and Carol Reese, all of Auburn; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and brother and sister-in-law, Donald and Linda Stebing of Fort Wayne.

She was also preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Roger Stebing.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 211 W. 9th St., Auburn, with the Rev. Stephen Kummernuss officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery at Auburn.

Calling will be from 4–7 p.m. Friday at the church and one hour prior to services Saturday at the church.

Memorials are to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Auburn, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (Rocky Boy Indian Reservation) Route 1, 1070, Box Elder, Mont. 59521-0728, or Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission Inc., P.O. Box 354, Mission Lane, Rock Point, Ariz., 86545-0354.

H.E. Johnson and Sons Funeral Home, Angola, is in charge of arrangements.

To sign the guestbook visit www.hejohnsonfh.com.

THE EVENING STAR

January 23 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Richard Lane

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — Richard E. Lane, age 58, formerly of Butler, Ind., died January 14, 2009, in his home in Corpus Christi, Texas.

He was a 1969 graduate of Eastside High School.

Mr. Lane

He served as Master (1974 and 1975) of The Free and Accepted Masons, Forest Lodge No, 239, Butler IN. He was also a member of the Fort Wayne Scottish Rite and the MIZPAH Shrine in Fort Wayne.

Richard was an avid saxophone player and played in the Shrine Band for several years prior to moving to California.

He designed and engineered projects for the family owned business, Lane Realty, until 1981. He then joined ITT Tech in Fort Wayne before being transferred to the San Diego, Calif., campus in 1986, where he continued teaching until 2000.

Richard E. Lane was born November 3, 1950, to Paul and Zelda Lane of Butler, Ind.

Richard is survived by his children, Brett (Laurie) Lane, Bart (Farrah) Lane, Annette Lane, and Matthew Lane, and his four grandchildren all of San Diego, Calif.

He is also survived by two brothers, Jim Lane of Texas, Dave Lane of Butler, Ind., and a sister, Carolyn Cox of Minnesota.

A private memorial service will be held in San Diego, Calif.

Please visit www.caringbridge.org/visit/richardelane in memory of Richard.

THE EVENING STAR

January 24 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Norma Grepke-Staley

BUTLER — Norma Louise Grepke-Staley, 76, of Butler, died Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009, at her home in Butler.

Mrs. Staley was a homemaker. She also worked most of her life as a waitress, working at the Tee Pee, Hamilton House, Town Tavern, and most recently for Richards Restaurant where she retired in 1996.

Mrs. Staley

She was a former member of the Butler American Legion Auxiliary and the Butler Eagles.

She was well known for her cooking and baking. She was also an avid Dale Earnhardt fan.

She was born Aug. 17, 1932, in Fort Wayne to Arthur Grepke and Dorthea (Jackson) Madden.

Surviving are: two sons and daughters-in-law, Randy and Cheryl Staley of Waterloo, and Adam and Karen Staley of Butler; one daughter, Cindy Staley of Leo; her ex-husband, Raymond Staley of Waterloo; seven grandchildren and their spouses, Angela and Todd Burggrave of Auburn, Jamison Staley of Tampa, Fla., Derrek Staley of Butler, Andrew Staley of Butler, Brooke Staley of Butler, Tobey and Heather Zehr of Fort Wayne and Kitrina and Brian Wright of Fishers; four great-grandchildren, Amanda Burggrave, Megan Burggrave, Brandon Burggrave and Melia Wright; two brothers, John Madden and Jimmy Madden, both of California; and one sister, Kim Madden of California.

She was preceded in death by her father and stepmother, Arthur and Eva Grepke; her mother and stepfather, Dorthea and Leonard Madden; one brother, Buddy Grepke; and one sister, Marjorie Cole.

Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Monday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Dale Rabineau officiating. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-5 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

THE EVENING STAR

January 25 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Bachelor helped keep farm in family

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Stephen Bachelor said he's not quite sure how it happened that his mother, June, and up marrying his father, Max Bachelor, especially considering that she was living in a neighboring county.

"I don't know how he got down to Wolcottville," Bachelor said. "They were both on a double date one night, but not with each other. Later on, he came back and asked her for a date." The couple were married for 62 years, helping to keep the Bachelor family farm going into its fifth generation.

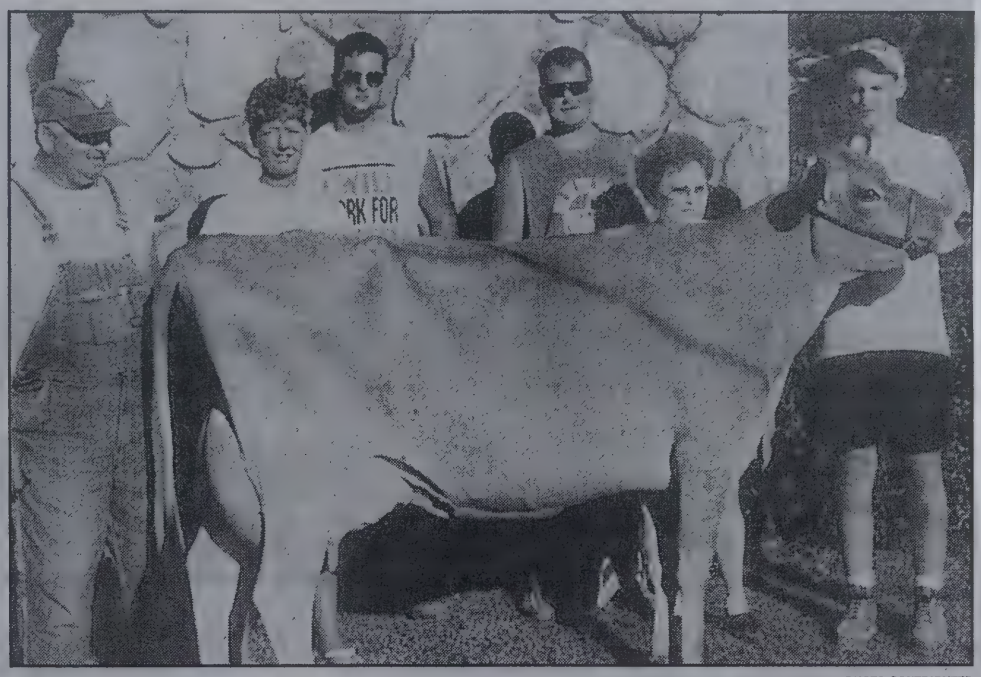


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

June Bachelor, second from right, helped to keep her family's dairy farm going through her work with the farm's calves and her expert paperwork skills. With her is her son, Steve Bachelor, left, daughter -in-law, Lynda and grandsons Cory, Curtis and Shawn Bachelor.

June Bachelor died Jan. 7 after an illness. Her son, Stephen, and grandson, Cory Bachelor, said her work helped to keep the farm going. June, they said, handled much of the paper work associated with running the farm.

"She was so good at it," Stephen said. "We all worked together to make it."

Cory said his grandmother was vital in keeping the farm running.

"She was critical," Cory said. "Grandma kind of kept it all together. She was the organized one." Judy's other primary role was to take care of the farm's calves. In doing so, she developed a keen sense of what cows the farm had. "She could tell you the pedigree on any cow back four or five generations," Cory said. "She was as sharp as a tack. She'll really be missed."

Cory and his brother, Curtis, also remembered their grandmother's other role, helping to keep them going with breakfast after early-morning chores.

"She would always make all of us breakfast," Curtis said. "And she would make us clean our plates. She used to make us eat grapefruit every morning, which I hated." But he also remembered some easier days. "Every summer she would take us over to the cottage on Lake James. We'd walk down and get donuts."

"She always made us a healthy breakfast," Cory said, indicating that he, too, was not a real fan of the grapefruit policy. "She would always take us lemonade while we bailed hay. And we always went to Grandma if we got cut or hurt something."

June's food-related efforts didn't stop with breakfast, Stephen said. "She was very good with cakes and pies," he said. "And her sugar cookies were awfully good, I know that. She'd make dinner all the time, very seldom did they ever go out in the old days." June would also take in clothing to sew, Stephen said, and had a few other hobbies. "She liked to do crafts. She especially liked making costume jewelry."

Dorothy Marley

AUBURN — Dorothy Lee Marley, 68, of Auburn, died Friday Jan. 23, 2009, in her home.

Mrs. Marley was born on April 26, 1940, in Richmond, to Kenneth and Jennie Lucille (Newman) Shaffer. They both preceded her in death.

Mrs. Marley

Early in her life, starting at the age of 16, she worked five years for the Palladium Item newspaper in Richmond. She then worked for the Johnson County Daily Journal newspaper in Franklin for 3 years.

She graduated with a bachelor's degree from Indiana University in 1963 and a master's degree in 1973.

She worked as an Extension Agent for Purdue University for 31 years serving Marion, Rush and DeKalb Counties.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Auburn, the Nurfuruns Women's Club, member and past president of the United Methodist Women's Unit of the First United Methodist Church, member and past president of the Auburn Chamber of Commerce, member of the Indiana Home Economics Association and also served as State Treasurer, member of the Indiana Extension Agents Association, member of the Indiana Extension Home Economics Association, member of the National Association of Home Economics, and a member of the Epsilon Sigma Phi Fraternity.

After her love of family, she enjoyed reading, travel, serving and teaching others. She was also involved in the 4-H program from age 10, eventually helping grandchildren with 4-H projects.

She married Don Cranor in 1961, and he passed away in 1983. She then married Albert Marley on April 2, 1988, in Auburn, and he survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and one son-in-law, Cindy and James Houck of Encinitas, Calif., and Becky Cranor of San Diego, Calif.; one son and daughter-in-law, Bruce and Jan Cranor of Williamsburg; two stepdaughters and one spouse, Judy and Bill Jordan of Greenfield, and Brenda McCoy of Kokomo; three stepsons and spouses, Ralph and Joyce Marley of Russiaville, Robert and Julie Marley of Seymour, and Jon and Julie Marley of Russiaville; one brother, Duane Shaffer of Mooresville; one sister and brother-in-law, Julie and Ron McNew of Richmond; 21 grandchildren; and 6 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 12 p.m. Tuesday at First United Methodist Church, Auburn. The Rev. Dale Williams and Rev. Ted Jansen will officiate. Burial will be in Gosport Cemetery, Gosport, Ind., at 1 p.m. Wednesday.

Calling will be from 1-4 and 6-8 p.m. Mon. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, Auburn.

Memorials may be directed to the First United Methodist Church or the American Cancer Society.

Irvin Lockhart

ANGOLA — Irvin W. Lockhart, 82, of Angola and formerly of Waterloo, died Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009, at Northern Lakes Nursing and Rehabitation in Angola.

Mr. Lockhart was born April 12, 1926, in Pleasant Lake, to Carl and Nina (Bair) Lockhart. They both preceded him in death. He married Mary Bolinger in 1954, and she died in 1984.

He worked for Warner Gear in Auburn for over 31 years, retiring in 1975. He was a U.S. Army veteran serving during WWII.

He was a member of the Waterloo V.F.W., Butler American Legion, and Auburn Moose Lodge.

He is survived by one sister, Wilma Robinett of Hamilton; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by one sister, Roberta Summerlot.

Funeral services will be 1 p.m. Wednesday at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo, with Pastor Donna Holcomb officiating. Burial will be in Pleasant Lake Cemetery, Pleasant Lake. Military graveside services will be conducted by the Butler American Legion.

Calling will be from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Cameron Home Health Care and Hospice in Angola.

THE EVENING STAR

January 26 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Rose Graham

BUTLER — Rose Graham, 81, died Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home, Butler.

There are no services or calling scheduled.

H. E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home, Butler, is in charge of arrangements.

Donna Cartwright

LAOTTO — Donna M. Cartwright, age 83, a resident since 2007 of the Hickory Creek Nursing Center in Kendallville, Indiana, died there Saturday, January 24, 2009, following an extended illness.

She was a former longtime resident and business professional in LaOtto, Indiana.

Donna was born April 13, 1925, in Huntertown, Indiana, a daughter of the late Thomas E. and Elnora Mae (Vermillian) Buchanan. She was united in marriage on April 20, 1943, to Robert D. Cartwright, who passed away on February 25, 2000.

Donna was a bookkeeper for 27 faithful years for the Cartwright Service Station in LaOtto and served as a precinct committee woman for the Noble County Republican Party.

She loved to bowl, travel and cook.

She was a member of the Sugar Grove Church of God.

Her survivors include three children, Terry and Marsha Cartwright of LaOtto, Indiana, Jacque and Jesse Hand of Garrett, Indiana, and Richard L. and Barbara Cartwright of Albion, Indiana. She also has eight grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her brothers and sisters, Charles Forrest "Todd" Buchanan, Katherine L. "Jabe" Lomont, Gerald Dwight "Histy" Buchanan, Mary Rose "Dit" Connell, James L. "Dud" Buchanan, Betty Jean Buchanan, Violet Fern "Boots" Loew and Norma Jean Byerly West; and a grandson, Daniel Smith Cartwright.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco, Indiana, with Pastors Tim Grable and Chris Mosley officiating. Burial will follow in the Swan Cemetery north of LaOtto in rural Noble County, Indiana.

The family will receive friends in the funeral home today from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. and one hour prior to service time on Wednesday.

For those who wish, memorials may be directed to the Sugar Grove Church of God Building Fund, LaOtto Volunteer Fire Department or Hickory Creek Nursing Center Activity Fund. Envelopes will be available in the funeral home.

You are invited to leave a condolence for the family and may do so by going to www.sheetsandchilds.net.

Mary Maxwell

GARRETT — Mary E. Maxwell, 86, of Garrett died Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009, at the Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

There are no services or calling.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association or the American Lung Association.

Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett is in charge of arrangements.

Wilma Day

HAMILTON — Wilma Mae Day, 93, of Hamilton died Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn where she had been a resident the past four years.

Mrs. Day

Mrs. Day was a homemaker.

She was a member of Barker's Chapel United Methodist Church.

She was born on March 27, 1915, in Edon, Ohio, to Ernest and Clara (Young) Schmitt. She married Gerald Day in 1948, and he preceded her in death on Dec. 16, 2004.

Surviving are two nieces and their husbands, Sandra and James Calvin of Wabash and Roxanna and Ron Burch of Hamilton; and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

She was also preceded in death by her parents and two sisters, Ilene Shrider and Betty Flanagan.

Graveside services were today at Hamilton Cemetery with Pastor Rick Pettys officiating.

Oberlin-Ford Funeral Home & Crematory of Hamilton is in charge of arrangements.

Memorials are to the Hamilton Fire Department or Barker's Chapel United Methodist Church.

Condolences may be sent to the family or the online guest book may be signed at www.oberlin-ford.com.

Jack Hopson Sr.

ANGOLA — Jack S. Hopson Sr., 74, of Angola died Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009, at his home.

He was a steeplejack and worked for Huron Painting and Swager Towers.

Mr. Hopson attended the Tri-State Church of Christ.

He was born May 10, 1934, in Prestonsburg, Ky., to John Calvin and Irene (Clevenger) Hopson. He married Patty Herren on Jan. 3, 1984. She survives in Angola.

Also surviving are three sons, Sherman Jack Hopson Jr. of Ashley, Kevin John Hopson of Fremont and John Calvin Hopson of Angola; four daughters, Mary Ann Hopson of Mt. Sterling, Ky., Brenda Day of Fremont, Heather Ann Royal of Waterloo and Syndall Mae Hopson of Angola; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and three sisters, Frankie Irene Jerrells of Portsmouth, Ohio, Bonnie Sue Crisp of Martin, Ky., and Nancy Ellen Johnson of Pleasant Lake.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four sisters, Mary Beth Cecil, Ruby Stratton, Opal Damron and Roberta Calcote; a brother, Robert Bruce Hopson; and one great-grandchild, Jacob Daniel Wall.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola with Russell Riley officiating.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Denzil Barger

GARRETT — Denzil D. Barger, 85, died at 8:40 a.m. Monday, Jan. 26, 2009, at his daughter's home in Auburn. He was a former Garrett resident.

Mr. Barger worked for the City of Garrett Street Department. He retired in 1988.

He was born Aug. 22, 1923, in Harriman, Tenn., to Alfred and Ollie (Ooten) Barger. He married Cecil L. Thomas on July 12, 1943, in Dalton, Ga. She died June 16, 1991.

Surviving are a son, Dale Barger of Garrett; six daughters, Carolyn Stallings of Butler, Debra Haiflich of Auburn, and Cathy Clapp, Darlene Barger, Penny Marti and Lisa Kennedy, all of Garrett; a sister, Reba Bradshaw of Crossville, Tenn.; 18 grandchildren; and 25 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Ronnie Eugene Barger; two grandchildren; four brothers and four sisters.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Thomas Funeral Home at Garrett. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Lutheran Pediatric Oncology in Fort Wayne.

Send a condolence or sign the online register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Laura Cline

MANCHESTER, Conn. — Laura J. Cline, 83, of Manchester, Conn., died Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009, at Manchester Memorial Hospital, Manchester.

Private family services are planned, with burial in Butler Cemetery, Butler, Ind.

H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home, Butler, is in charge of arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR

January 28 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Cdr. Norman Gearhart

CAMARILLO. Calif. — Cdr. Norman R. Gearhart, U.S.N. (ret.), passed away Jan. 3, 2009, at a private residential care home in Camarillo, Calif., after a long illness. He was 79.

Cdr. Gearhart

Mr. Gearhart

Norm was born on Oct. 3, 1929, in Auburn, Ind., and was the eldest of three children. He graduated with a B.S. in nautical science from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif. Norm joined the Navy in 1947 and traveled the world by sea and air throughout his 30-year career. His love for and skill in photography enabled him to fly photo recon during the Korean War. A pilot and leader for most of his naval career, Norm was awarded the following: the Bronze Star; Air Medal; Navy Commendation Medal; Korean Presidential Unit Citation; Korean Service Medal, Navy Occupation Service Medal; United Nations Service Medal; and the Chinese Navy's Hai Feng Medal. His last assignment was at Naval Air Station Point Mugu, Calif., where he served as the base executive officer and retired in 1977.

After retirement, Norm and his wife, Merrion, started a company called Reminiscence. They designed, manufactured and marketed miniature furniture, a very popular collector hobby in the '80s. This allowed Norm to continue to use his photography skills, traveling the U.S. for trade shows and Taiwan for the manufacturing. They retired the business in 1988.

The following years were spent with great joy as a grandfather (over and over), on his boat fishing, pursuing photography, playing with his computer, collecting every new gadget, and orchestrating wonderful annual family reunions.

Norm's character reflected his Lord, whom he now sees face-to-face.

He is survived by his wife, Merrion; daughters, Michelle (Jim) Reeves, Denise (Dan) Rohrer, Stacy (Brian) Phelps, Dana (Marc) Goodman,; and son Steve (Joanie Serena) Gole. He is further survived by grandchildren, Travis Albee (Rohrer), Brittany, Haley and Carly Rohrer; Lane and Kyle Goodman; Ian, Jordan, Connor and Cole Phelps; Alex Serena, Camryn Serena and Lea Beth Gole; great-granddaughter, Cadence Phelps; and sister, Lou Ann Gearhart. In addition, extended family include the Flowers family — Tom Jr., Carole, Tom III, Serena (Williams), Tamara, Bob and Tom IV; Gearhart family — Darla, Jed and Bret, Rick Gulick and Debi Knowles.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Claude and Marion Gearhart; brother, Ronald Gearhart; granddaughter, Blair Goodman; and nephews, Eric and Blake Gearhart.

Funeral services were Friday, Jan. 9, 2009, at the Chapel of the Hills, Conejo Mountain Funeral Home, Camarillo. Burial with full military rites were also in Camarillo.

Memoiral donations are to the Alzheimer's Association at 1339 Del Norte Road, Camarillo, CA 93010, or Livingston Hospice at 1996 Eastman Ave., Suite 101, Ventura, CA 93003.

His song may have ended but his melody will linger on.

Assisting the family with funeral arrangements is Conejo Mountain Funeral Home and Memorial Park, 2052 Howard Road, Camarillo. (805) 482-1959.

Kenneth Hollis

FREMONT — Kenneth L. Hollis, 76, of Fremont and formerly of Garrett died Monday, Jan. 26, 2009, at Cameron Memorial Community Hospital in Angola.

Mr. Hollis had retired from International Harvester in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Hollis

He was a graduate of Garrett High School.

Mr. Hollis was a life member of Orland American Legion Post 423 and its color guard. He was a charter member of the Garrett Eagles Lodge. He was also a member of Picady Hunt Club in Old Town, Md.

He was born May 11, 1932, in Garrett to Leo Francis and Agnes M. (May) Hollis. He married Gertrude Edna GlusenKamp on April 28, 1973, in Fort Wayne. She survives in Fremont.

Also surviving are a brother and sister-in-law, Raymond and Sayoka Hollis of Dayton, Ohio; a sister and brother-in-law, Mary Kay and Don Nymberg of Virginia Beach, Va.; two nieces; and four nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Beams Funeral Home in Fremont with Father Fred Pasche officiating. Burial will be in Greenlawn Cemetery in Orland with military rites by members of Orland American Legion Post 423.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Orland American Legion Post 423.

Condolences may be sent online to www.beamsfuneralhome.com.

Laura Cline

BUTLER — Laura J. Cline, 83, of Manchester, Conn., died Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009, at Manchester Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Cline was a dietitian and had worked at hospitals in Chicago, Maine and Connecticut.

She was a graduate of Purdue University.

She was born in Butler on July 12, 1925, to George and Doris (McCollough) Cline.

Surviving are a brother and sister-in-law, Roger and Pat Cline of Butler, and two nephews.

Private family services will be held with burial in the Butler Cemetery.

H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home in Butler is in charge of arrangements.

Hilda Reinoehl

ASHLEY — Hilda Mae (Smith) Reinoehl, 88, died Wednesday, January 28, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

She lived her entire life in DeKalb County, mostly in the Ashley/Hudson area.

Mrs. Reinoehl

She was a homemaker and devoted her life to God, her husband and family, neighbors and many friends. She loved the times when she could lend a hand to others, that was her life.

She was a wonderful cook and worked for a short time at the Green Parrot Restaurant in Waterloo with her sister, Pauline McBride.

She was an active member of the St. Johns United Church of Christ, Ashley, for 70 years. She was also a member of the Fairfield Extension Homemakers Club.

She was born May 20, 1920, at Souder Hospital in Auburn to Paul C. and Blanche (Lung) Smith.

She married Harold E. Reinoehl on Aug. 21, 1938, at the St. Johns United Church of Christ parsonage in Hudson and he survives.

She is also survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Max and Sharon Reinoehl of Ashley; a daughter and son-in-law, Judy and Richard Ditmars of Auburn; five grandchildren, Todd Reinoehl and friend Carla, Tammy and Steve Gilbert, Troy and Lara Reinoehl, Eric and Mary Ditmars and Kurt Ditmars; 10 great-grandchildren; three brothers and two sisters-in-law, Van Smith of Ashley, Wayne Smith of Springfield, Mo., and Gilbert and Barbara Smith of Fresno, Calif., and Jean Reinoehl of Ashley; four sisters and four brothers-in-law, Beth and Bill Hoskins of Lake Havasu City, Ariz., Isabelle and Reuben Kravik of Mesa, Ariz., Janet Tracey of Battle Creek, Mich., Jeanne Knisely of Pleasant Lake, John Reinoehl of Angola and Burdette Parr of Ashley.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Lloyd Smith and Richard Smith; and two sisters, Pauline McBride and Betty Cox.

Services are at 11 a.m. Saturday, January 31, 2009, at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo. The Rev. John Kabes will officiate. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery, Corunna.

Calling is Friday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Johns United Church of Christ, Ashley.

Rose Jones

AUBURN — Rose H. Jones, 98, of Auburn died Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009, at Betz Nursing Home, Auburn.

A celebration of life service will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at New Hope Christian Center, 900 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Home Health and Hospice, the Betz Nursing Home activity fund or D.A.R.T., the Heimach Center van service.

Annabelle Ladd

AUBURN — Annabelle Ladd, age 86, died Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2009, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home.

She was born on June 22, 1922, in Wilmington Township.

Annabelle was a LPN, working for over 20 years at Sheehy and Meadowhaven Nursing Homes.

She married Worthy Ladd on October 31, 1942, in Waterloo. He preceded in death on November 5, 1985.

Survivors include two sons and daughters-in-law, Jerry and Carol Ladd and Ron and Janine Ladd, all of Butler; five grandchildren, Amy and Steve Upp, Jessica and Tim Evans, Matthew Ladd, Cassandra Ladd and Gabriel Ladd, all of Butler; four great-grandchildren, Alex Upp, Abigail Evans, Eason Roscoe and Dean Ladd.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Addie (Metcalf) Campbell; three brothers, Paul, Virgil and Roy Campbell; three sisters, Helen McKee, Dorothy Umbarger and Mary Ellen Hurraw.

Private family services will be held, with Pastor Dale Rabineau officiating. Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery. Preferred memorials are to the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home.

H.E. Johnson Funeral Home in Butler is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Cecil David

BUTLER — Cecil E. David, 90, died Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009. at Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home, Butler.

Mr. David worked for 22 years at Bohn Aluminum Corp in Butler retiring in 1981. He was a former member of the Butler Eagles.

He was born April 20, 1918 in Sturgis, Mich., to Zera and Emma (Kline) David. He married Mable Mann on Dec. 12, 1937 in Hamilton and she died on Feb. 6, 1981.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Jeanette and Santana Salinas of Butler; a daughter-in-law, Kris David of Auburn; six grandchildren; one stepgrandchild; 12 great-grandchildren; and three step-great grandchildren; a brother, Wendell David of Washington; and two sisters, Maxine Burkhart of Auburn and Ida Margaret Snyder of Melbourne, Fla.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son Jim David; three brothers and four sisters.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo. The Rev. Kevin Marsh will officiate. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be from 1-3 p.m. Saturday prior to the service the at the funeral home. Memorials are to the Butler United Methodist Church or DeKalb County Relay for Life.

Lloyd Gael

GARRETT — Lloyd J.C. Gael, 84, of Garrett died at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at his home.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Thomas Funeral Home at Garrett. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn with military services by the Garrett American Legion and the VFW.

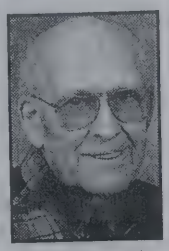
Calling will be from 1-2 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Community Harvest Food Bank in Fort Wayne.

A complete obituary will appear in Saturday's paper.

Kenneth Leitch Jr.

CHURUBUSCO — Kenneth Leitch Jr., 83, a resident of Churubusco, died at 9:07 p.m. on Wednesday, January 28, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne. He had been in declining health for some time.



Mr. Leitch Jr.

Mr. Leitch was born on August 5, 1925, in Whitley County, a son of Kenneth P. and Thelma Evangela (Herron) Leitch. As a young man he served during World War II with the U.S. Marine Corps.

A lifelong resident of the Churubusco area, he retired in 1983 as a machinist with International Harvester in Fort Wayne after 27 years.

He was a member of the Faith Lutheran Church in Churubusco and the Gilbert Davis American Legion Post 157 in Churubusco. In his leisure time he enjoyed spending summers in Sarona, Wisconsin, playing golf, target shooting, and gardening.

His marriage took place in Churubusco on June 5, 1963, to Ruth E. Miller. She survives.

Also surviving are his children, Ellen (Gary) Smith of Albion, Valeria (Jerry) Cheek of Auburn, Jeannette (Gary) Petelle of Churubusco, Vickie Leitch of Moore, Oklahoma, Scott (Debbie) Leitch of Churubusco and Christopher Hardacre of Columbia City; his sisters, Arrena Diffendarfer and Janette Johnson, both of Churubusco; two sisters-in-law, Mary Jane Leitch of Fort Wayne and Irene Leitch of Arizona; 11 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Ross Leitch and Don Leitch.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, February 2, at the Faith Lutheran Church in Churubusco with Pastor Lane Burgland officiating.

The family will receive friends at the Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco on Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m., or at the church one hour prior to the service.

Private family interment with military graveside rites will be in Concordia Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

For those who wish, memorials may be directed to Faith Lutheran Church in Churubusco.

To leave a condolence for the family in Mr. Leitch's memory, log on to www.sheetsandchilds.net.

Doris Dapp

GARRETT — Doris E. Dapp, 83, of Garrett died Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Church at Garrett, 1370 S. Randolph St., Garrett, with Pastor Tom Wilcoxson officiating.

Private family burial will take place Monday at Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling will be from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday at the church.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home in Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Samuel Kees

WATERLOO — Samuel M. Kees, 80, of Waterloo died Thursday Jan. 29, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, Auburn.

Mr. Kees worked at Warner Gear in Auburn for 30 years, retiring in 1981.

He was a member of the St. Joe Church of Christ and the Garrett Eagles.

He was born June 27, 1928, in St. Joe to George and Wilma (Majors) Kees. He married Betty Badman on July 7, 1945, and she survives in Waterloo.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Jeanne and Gary Mann of Hamilton and Ginger and Jim Zeigler of Nathalie, Va.; one son and daughter-in-law, Tim and Loxie Kees of Auburn; two sisters, Betty Delucenay of Garrett and Bonnie Crabill of Auburn; eight grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Rodney Kees; three brothers, Willard Kees, Harry Kees and Rodger Kees; and one sister, Nelda Shafer.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. The Rev. Ralph Diehl will officiate. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-5 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the New Hope Christian Center.

Vera Housel

AUBURN — Vera L. Housel, 91, of Auburn died Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009 at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

She was a homemaker and worked for 25 years at the Garrett Veterinary Hospital, retiring in 1987. After retiring she worked at Monique Fabric in Auburn.

Mrs. Housel

She was a 50-year member of the Eastern Star and she was also a member of Cresent Rebecca Lodge of Auburn.

She was born Nov. 22, 1917, in Fort Wayne to Harry and Cecile (Eady) Kruge and they have both passed away. She married Victor Housel Sr. on April 9, 1950, in Fort Wayne and he died Dec. 17, 1986.

She is survived by a son and daughter in law, Victor and Margo Housel Jr. of Auburn; two daughters and sons-in-law, Patricia and Alan Miller of LaPorte and Linda and Gary Bradley of Thompson Falls, Montana; two grandsons, Bradley Miller and Alexander Miller, both of LaPorte; two stepgrandchildren, Annette Shumaker and Brian Ort, both of Auburn; and a stepgreat-granddaughter, Krysten Shumaker of Auburn.

Services will be 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 2, 2009, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling is Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m. at the funeral home, with an Eastern Star service at 4 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to Alterstar United Methodist Church, 1403 CR 68, Auburn, IN 46706.

Clarence Beck

MONTPELIER, Ohio — Clarence B. Beck, 99, of Montpelier died Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009, at Bryan Care & Rehabilitation Center in Bryan following a lingering illness.

Mr. Beck had been a lifetime Montpelier resident and had moved to his daughter's home at Bryan in 2002.

He was an auto and truck mechanic and had worked at several Ford dealerships. He retired as a mechanic from the Montpelier Street Department.

He had been a volunteer firefighter with the Montpelier Fire Department for 21 years.

Mr. Beck was a former member of the Eagles Lodge, VFW Post 994 and Church of Christ, all in Montpelier.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II.

He was born Oct. 27, 1909, in Montpelier to Minnie A. Hodson and John O. Beck. He married Helen L. Haifley on April 1, 1941. She died June 9, 1997.

Surviving are a son and two daughters-in-law, Byron and Ellen Beck of Edon, Ohio; and Missy Beck of Montpelier, Ohio; two daughters and sons-in-law, Lela and Lonnie Furrow of Bryan, Ohio, and Kay and Howard Morton of Auburn, Ind.; 14 grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by two sons, Spencer Beck on Sept. 30, 2003, and Basil Krathwohl on Nov. 16, 1988; two granddaughters, Carmilla Simmons and Tara Hayes; two brothers, Kenneth Beck and K.O. Beck; and four sisters, Opal Tingley, Gaytha Willis, Nina Steele and Myrl Imthurn.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Wilson-Geesey Funeral Home, 335 Empire St., Montpelier, with Pastor John Rumple officiating. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery in Montpelier with military graveside rites.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Hospice of Community Hospitals and the Wellness Centers of Williams County.

Mary DeWitt

FORT WAYNE — Mary Helen Hyde DeWitt, 89, died Friday, Jan. 30, 2009, at St. Anne Home, Fort Wayne.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, the Rev. Ted Jansen officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be one hour prior to the service and Monday 4-7 p.m., at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Riley Children's Hospital.

Lloyd Gael

GARRETT — Lloyd J.C. Gael, 84, of Garrett died at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009, at his home.

Mr. Gael was a process engineer at Borg-Warner in Auburn for 38 years, retiring in 1979.

Mr. Gael

He was a lifetime Garrett resident and wintered in Ruskin, Fla.

He was a World War II Army Air Force veteran, serving as an "A" gunner engineer.

Mr. Gael was a member of the Garrett VFW.

He was born May 16, 1924, in Garrett to August Carl and Myrtle E. (Weldon) Gael. He married Alice L. Mueller on June 30, 1973, in South Milford. She preceded him in death.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, John C. and Jennifer Gael of Auburn; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Judi Winchester of Warsaw, Karen and Bill Howard of Albion and Mary and Ron Culbertson of Auburn; a stepdaughter, Virginia Mueller of Sherwood, Mich.; seven grandchildren; six stepgrandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and two stepgreat-grandchildren.

He was also preceded by a brother, Oliver Lovette; two sisters, Helen Weldon and Madeline Dose; and a stepgrandchild.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett with Pastor Ralph Diehl officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn with military graveside services by members of the Garrett American Legion and VFW.

Calling will be from 1-2 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Community Harvest Food Bank in Fort Wayne.

Send a condolence or sign the online register book at thomasfuneralhome.org.

THE EVENING STAR
February 1 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Betty Newman: Remembering a dedicated Democrat and volunteer

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — She dedicated herself to the Democratic party in Noble County and volunteering in the Kendallville community.

That's how Betty Newman's friends, fellow workers and club members remember her. They wished she could have lived to see President Barak Obama's inauguration.

Newman, 86, of Kendallville died Monday, Jan. 19, 2009, at Parkview Noble Hospital, Kendallville, the day before Obama was sworn in Tuesday, Jan. 20.

"She was always there for the Democratic party," said her close friend Cora Smolinske of Kendallville, a long-time party supporter herself. "It's too bad she didn't live long enough to see the inauguration." Smolinske had known Newman for 30 years. "She put an awful lot of time in for the party and the community."

Newman was the Noble County Vice Chairman of the Central Democratic Committee and was a member of the Noble County Democratic Women's Club. She attended political functions in support of Democrat Dr. Jerry Jansen's successful election to Noble County Council in November.

He described her as a woman from the 1950s who cared about patriotism and hard work. "She was actively involved in party events most of her life," said Jansen. "She displayed patriotism for her country and working for the party when it was needed. It was a big part of her life."

Democrat Don Moore, a Noble County Council member, said Newman was at all the political events. "She was usually the first person there and stayed until the end to help clean-up."

Mrs. Newman

For 15 years Newman belonged to the Second Time Around Club for senior citizens. Each week she cooked lunch at the Youth Center for all who came to play cards and socialize.

The lifetime Kendallville resident was a volunteer coordinator at The Bargain Shop in downtown Kendallville since 1984.

She was a member of the IU Alumni Association, the Elks Lodge No. 1194, the Moose Lodge No. 730, the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, the Kendallville Windmill & Historical Society and the North Shore Animal League. She actively supported the Indiana Fraternal Order of Police.

Kendallville Mayor Suzanne Handshoe met Newman when they were members of the Professional/Business Women's Association in Kendallville. "She had a giving heart and will be missed," said Handshoe.

Long-time association member Fran Moran worked with Newman on the association's scholarship committee. "While pouring over the stack of applications, she would often say I wish we could give each one a scholarship. Betty had a heart of gold, and was always a willing worker on any committee she served," said Moran.

Newman loved Christmas. The last Professional/Business Women's Association committee she served on was last year's social committee responsible for the association's Christmas party. "She did her part and enjoyed the evening with the Apple Chords," said Moran.

Newman was born in Kendallville on Dec. 26, 1922, to Charles and Louise Amelia (Fritz) Haverfield. She graduated from Kendallville High School in 1941 and married Donald Lee Newman at the First Presbyterian Church in Kendallville. He preceded her in death on Aug. 28, 1983.

She was a homemaker and worked at Domex in Kendallville from 1974-1986.

She leaves a daughter and son-in-law, two granddaughters and their spouses, seven great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson.

Newman is buried in Lake View Cemetery north of Kendallville.

Randy Sutton

KENDALLVILLE — Randy Lee Sutton, 50, of Kendallville died Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009 at Parkview Noble Hospital, Kendallville.

He graduated from DeKalb High School and was a machine operator with Hy-Matic in Kendallville for 24 years.

Mr. Sutton was a member of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Kendallville, and was an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, hiking, gardening and animals.

On April 17, 1958, in Kendallville, he was born to Trevor John and Gloria Dee (Grieser) Sutton.

Surviving are his mother, Gloria Sutton, Kendallville; a son, Jonathan Sutton, Kendallville; two daughters and a son-in-law, Angela Sutton, Wolcottville, and Alyssa and Levi Bolinger, Rome City; a sister and brother-in-law, Regina and John Millhouse, Albion; a grandmother, Joyce Sutton, Kendallville; and many aunts and uncles.

Preceding him in death were his father, Trevor John Sutton in 1983; paternal grandfather, Isaac Sutton; and maternal grandparents, Raymond and Velma Grieser.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St., Kendallville, with James Charles officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery, Kendallville.

Calling will be from 1-5 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Condolences can be sent to the family online at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Dorothy Wagner

AUBURN — Dorothy A. Wagner, 88, of Auburn died Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009, at Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home, Butler.

Mrs. Wagner was a bookkeeper for Dr. Harry Covell for 22 years, retiring in 1973.

In DeKalb County, she was born to Munson and Ethel May (Loutzenheiser) Baughman on April 14, 1920. She married Roland M. Wagner in 1944 in Centertown, Ga. He survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents; a son, R. Michael Wagner; two brothers, Eugene Baughman and Oscar Baughman; and two sisters, Iris Baughman and Zella R. Monroe.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor Al Black officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 10 to 11 a.m., Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb Community Foundation.

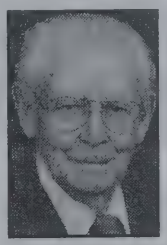
Francis Nelson

BUTLER — Francis A. Nelson, 99, died Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, Auburn.

He was born on April 26, 1909, in Lambert, Okla., to Andrew and Minnie (Belcher) Nelson.

Francis married Irene V. Ball on Dec. 4, 1929, in Butler. She preceded him in death on May 25, 1991.

He was a retired farmer and carpenter. He also worked for over 20 years at H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home and furniture store.



Mr. Nelson

Francis was a member of St. Marks Lutheran Church of Butler, and DeKalb County Farm Bureau, serving as County President. He served as Wilmington Township Trustee from 1967 to 1979, and was a former board member of the DeKalb Co-Op Credit Union, a former director of the DeKalb Farm Bureau Co-Op (now DeKalb Agra) and a former member of the Cedar Creek Drainage Board.

Survivors include four sons and three daughters-in-law, Robert and Gloria Nelson, Des Plaines, Ill., Jack and Kay Nelson, Big Rapids, Mich., Leslie Nelson, Butler, and Dennis and Patricia Nelson, Niles, Ohio; five grandchildren, Lori and Art Hanrehan, Sandra and Steve Zurlo, Monica and Kevin Meyer, Timothy and Kristin Nelson, and Jeffrey and Emily Nelson; 11 great-grandchildren; and a brother, Louis Nelson, Auburn.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Howard Nelson, and a sister, Christina Bumgardner.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at St. Marks Lutheran Church, Butler, with Pastor John Stuck officiating. Pallbearers will be Robert, Jack, Leslie, Dennis, Timothy and Jeffrey Nelson. Honorary pallbearers are Louis Nelson, Steve Nelson, Kevin Meyer, Art Hanrehan and Steven Zurlo.

Calling will be from 2-7 p.m. Tuesday at H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home, Butler, and one hour before services at the church.

Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery.

Memorials are to the church.

Condolences may be sent and a video tribute viewed at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Amy Robinson

WATERLOO — Amy J. Robinson, 38, died Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009, at Goshen General Hospital, Goshen.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery, Waterloo.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Goshen Cancer Center.

Amy Robinson

WATERLOO — Amy J. Robinson, 38, of Waterloo died Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009, at Goshen General Hospital, Goshen.

She was born June 10, 1970, in Auburn.

She married Tony Robinson on Feb. 14, 2004, in Auburn and he survives in Waterloo.

Mrs. Robinson

She is survived by her mother and stepfather, Fay (Abell) and Phil Fluke of Butler, and her father, Tom Weicht of Butler.

She is also survived by a son, Kyle Doub of Waterloo; two stepsons, Austin Robinson and Luke Robinson, both of Waterloo; a brother, Tom Weicht Jr. of Auburn; two grandmothers, Dorothy Stevenson of Butler and Jane Fluke of Auburn; and her mother-in-law, Barb Robinson of Geneva.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery, Waterloo.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Goshen Cancer Center.

Mary DeWitt

AUBURN — Mary Helen (Hyde) DeWitt, 89, of Garrett died Friday, Jan. 30, 2009, at St. Anne Home in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. DeWitt had been a nurse's aide at DeKalb Memorial Hospital for 20 years, retiring in 1982.

She was a native of Garrett and a 1938 graduate of Garrett High School.

Mrs. DeWitt

Mrs. DeWitt was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett and Harvest House in Garrett.

Surviving are a daughter, Marcia and Dave Baysinger of Auburn; three sons, Jake DeWitt of Hamilton and his fiancee, Barbara Birkenbuel, David and Treva DeWitt of Auburn and Don and Jean DeWitt of Fort Wayne; 11 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; a brother, Lewis Hyde of Garrett; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Clarence E. DeWitt; and a sister, Catherine Hurtzfield.

Services were today at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. Ted Jansen officiating.

Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Memorials are to Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis.

Arthur Strong

FORT WAYNE — Arthur R. Strong, 77, died Saturday, January 31, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne. He was born in Cass City, Ind.

He was a truck driver for many years and for NXW Trucking for the last four years. He retired in 2007.

Mr. Strong

Survivors include his wife, Leta Strong of Auburn; a son, Ralph and Cheryl Taylor of Fort Wayne; four daughters, Rita and Elmer Gilman of Grahm, Wash., Lori Newbough of Anchorage, Alaska, Janet and Jeff Emmons of Fort Wayne, and Judine Taylor and Richard Pressman of San Antonio, Texas; grandchildren, Audrea Montagne, Adam Emmons, Debbie Kraback, Shane Taylor, Grace Pressman and Sam Pressman; five great-grandchildren; a niece, Rene Breitkreutz of Wasilla, Alaska, and a nephew, Richard Breitkreutz of Chiquak, Alaska.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at D.O. McComb & Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, 1140 Lake Avenue, with the Rev. Linda Martin officiating.

Calling will be from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Burial will be in Highland Park Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

Memorials are to the S.P.C.A.

Margaret Leedy

AUBURN — Margaret Y. Leedy, 93, of Auburn and formerly of Fort Wayne died Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Leedy was a savings loan counselor for First Federal, retiring in 1981.

She was a 1932 graduate of Roanoke High School. She then attended Manchester College for three years.

She was a member of the Lincolnshire Church of the Brethren in Fort Wayne. She was also a member of the Sigma Eta Sorority - Fine Arts Inc. She was a past musician for the Fort Wayne Philharmonic.

She was born July 7, 1915, in Huntington to James S. and Geneva (Kimmel) Jordan. She married Joseph A. Leedy in Fort Wayne on Dec. 28, 1946, and he preceded her in death.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, MariEtta and Paul Zook of Tampa, Fla., and Rita and Charles Collins of Auburn; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. Ted Jansen and Rev. Dale Williams will officiate. Burial will be in Greenlawn Memorial Park in Fort Wayne.

Calling will be from 5-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to Lincolnshire Church of the Brethren or a charity of the donor's choice.

Toni Miller

AUBURN — Toni G. Miller, 51, passed away Sunday, February 1, 2009, at her home in Granger.

Born in Garrett, she was employed with Jo Ann Fabrics for two years in Mishawaka.

Mrs. Miller

She graduated from Fremont High School in 1975.

She enjoyed crafts.

She is survived by her husband, Joseph J. Miller of Granger; sons, J.R. Miller and John W. Miller, both of Granger; three brothers, Eugene Lash of Ashley, Greg Lash of Kendallville and Michael Lash of Illinois; and an aunt, Connie Patrick of Rome City.

Services are at 10 a.m. Saturday at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with calling one hour prior to services.

Calling will also be from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett.

Memorials are to the donor's choice.

James Schindler

AUBURN — James M. Schindler, 52, of Auburn and formerly of Hamilton and Garrett died Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2009, at his home following an extended illness.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Light and Life Wesleyan Church in Three Rivers, Mich., with Pastor Sam Maddox officiating. Burial will be in White Pigeon Township Cemetery.

There will be no calling.

Memorials are to the family.

Farrand Funeral Home in White Pigeon is in charge of arrangements.

Wilma Snyder

ST. JOE — Wilma M. Snyder, 89, of St. Joe, died Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2009, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Mrs. Snyder was a homemaker.

She was a member of the Concord United Methodist Church and also the Ladies Aides.

Mrs. Snyder

She was born March 21, 1919, in Waterloo to Fredrick D. and Lanta (Dunn) Gafken.

She married Henry L. Snyder on July 4, 1937, in Kalamazoo, Mich. He died Oct. 3, 2001.

Surviving are four sons and daughters-in-law, Richard L. "Dick" and Beverly Snyder of Waterloo, Larry L. and Janet Snyder of Little Turkey Lake, Rex A. andMaryLu Snyder of St. Joe and Van S. and Teresa Snyder of Fort Wayne; a sister, Doris McSorley of Auburn; 14 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a son, Jimmy D. Snyder; a brother, Dale K. Gafken; a sister, Arlene Gafken; and a great-granddaughter.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor Merle Holden officiating. Burial will be inWoodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the American Lung Association.

Charles Fike

GARRETT — Charles W. "Chuck" Fike, age 77, died on Wednesday, February 4, 2009, at his residence in Garrett, Ind.

He was born September 5, 1931, in Corunna, Ind., to Arthur Fike Sr. and Elva M. Harter. He married Donna Hollis on August 19, 1950, in Corunna, Ind. She survives in Garrett, Ind.

He was the founder of Fike's Machine Shop in Garrett, retiring in 1988.

He was a member of Zion 16 Lutheran Church in Corunna, Ind.

Chuck was an avid bowler, golfer and bridge player.

Survivors include his son and daughter in-law, Gary and Julie Fike of Fort Wayne, Ind.; a grandson, Brandon Fike of Fort Wayne, Ind.; a brother, James Fike of Garrett, Ind.; and a sister, Beverly Thurman of Garrett, Ind. He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Harold Fike and Arthur Fike; and a sister, Edna Schulthess.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2007, from 10 a.m. until noon at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett, Ind.

The funeral service will follow at noon at the funeral home, with Pastor John Stuck officiating. Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery.

Memorials are to Zion 16 Lutheran Church.

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook go to www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

April Perkins

GARRETT — April E. Perkins, 49, died Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2009, in Garrett.

There will be no services at this time.

Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett, is in charge of arrangements.

Edna Wildey

ALBION — Edna Marie Wildey, 86 of Warren and formerly of Albion died Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2009, at the Heritage Pointe in Warren where she had resided since 2001.

Mrs. Wildey had been an elementary school teacher for the Central Noble Schools in Albion.

Mrs. Wildey

She was also an ordained minister in the Wesleyan Church. She co-pastored the Albion Wesleyan Church along with her husband, Tom.

Mrs. Wildey was a member of the Lancaster Wesleyan Church and the Indiana Retired Teachers Association.

She was born May 17, 1922, in Bluffton to Charles C. and Cora (Henschen) Wolf. She married the Rev. Thomas A. Wildey on Aug. 7, 1945. He died July 21, 1994.

Surviving are a brother, Gene E. Wolf of Fort Wayne; and several nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a daughter, Peggy Sue, who died at birth; and three sisters.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Albion Wesleyan Church in Albion. The Rev. Doug Sharrard and conference officials will officiate. Burial will be in Merriam Christian Chapel Cemetery in Merriam.

Calling will be from2-8 p.m. Friday at Brazzell Funeral Home, Albion Chapel, 771 Trailridge Road in Albion, and one hour prior to services on Saturday at the church.

Memorials are to Gideons International.

THE EVENING STAR

February 5 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Mary Dafforn

CHURUBUSCO — Mary C. Dafforn, 90, a resident of Eel River Township in Allen County and the widow of Robert H. Dafforn, died at 3:17 a.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne. She had been in failing health for some time, and had been taken to the hospital from Kingston Care Center in Fort Wayne on Sunday.

Mrs. Dafforn

Mrs. Dafforn was born in Wells County south of Bluffton on April 28, 1918, a daughter of Rollie and Stella (Faust) Deam. She spent her formative years in that area and graduated from Bluffton High School in 1936.

On October 12, 1940, she was married in Newport, Kentucky, to Robert H. Dafforn. The couple lived in Churubusco for the first two years of their marriage and them moved to the family farm in Eel River Township. She had lived at her present home since 1962, and had been employed for several years as a press operator at the former Irene Byron Institutional Power Plant, north of Fort Wayne.

Mr. Dafforn preceded her in death on April 30, 1987.

The surviving relatives include her sons, James R. (companion Mary Jo) Dafforn of Auburn and Donald W. (Karen) Dafforn and Roger A. (Judy) Dafforn, both of Churubusco; a brother, Richard (Sue) Deam of Bluffton; three sisters, Joan Machling of Kendallville, Martha (Dwight) Siela of Fort Wayne, and Barbara Gurule of Raleigh, North Carolina; six grandchildren; three stepgrandchildren; several great- and great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Robert Deam and Roger Deam; and by two sisters, Mamie Schrieber and Margaret Schrieber.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco with the Rev. Larry Smith, pastor of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, officiating.

The family will receive friends at the mortuary on Friday from 2 to 8 p.m., or one hour prior to the service.

Interment will be in the Eel River Cemetery, Allen County.

For those who wish, memorials may be directed to Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, Churubusco.

To leave a condolence for the family in Mrs. Dafforn's memory, log on to www.sheetsandchilds.net.

THE EVENING STAR

February 6 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Michelle Hetchler

LAGRANGE — Michelle Leigh (Musser) Hetchler, 35, of LaGrange passed to a better life Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was born Sept. 28, 1973, in Auburn to William Musser and Patricia (Ludwig) Musser.

Michelle loved her feline "Kids," classic rock music, movies, reading, concerts, traveling and meeting new friends on the computer.

Ms. Hetchler

She had worked at The News-Sun in Kendallville and most recently had found her favorite job as an X-ray receptionist at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville. She not only enjoyed helping care for the ill but also easily made many new friends.

She is survived by her mother and best friend, Pat Musser of Kendallville; her beloved brother, Jeff Musser of Kendallville; her two adored nephews, Zachary Scott and Nicholas Allen Musser, both of Kendallville; her maternal grandfather, Robert Ludwig of Auburn; aunt and uncle, Judy and Bob Battig of Garrett; and many cousins.

She was preceded in death by her father; her maternal grandmother, Barbara Ludwig; an uncle, Richard Ludwig; and paternal grandparents, Ralph and Ruth Musser.

Love and peace be with her till we see her again.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Feller Funeral Home of Waterloo is handling arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
February 8 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Photos capture essence of Custer

BY SUE CARPENTER
suec@kpcnews.net

"If I leave here tomorrow
Would you still remember me
For I must be traveling on now
'Cause there's too many places
I've got to see."
— Lyrics from "Free Bird"
Written by Allen Collins and
Ronnie VanZant of Lynryd Skynyrd

GARRETT — Bruce Custer never got to see photographs he posed for on his Harley Davidson motorcycle more than a year ago.

But family and friends were stunned with photographer Rod Walker's talent for capturing Custer's spirit while viewing the photo series at the funeral home. Bruce Custer died unexpectedly Jan. 12 of an apparent heart attack while at work at Custer Grain Co. of Garrett.

Walker and Custer rode their motorcycles together in the past and Walker had done some mechanical work on Custer's Harley, as well.

"I was looking for something different to display in our (photography business) window, such as cars and motorcycles," Walker said. "Bruce traditionally looked like an old school-biker. He has that look."

They arranged to meet for a photo shoot about sunset near Waterloo. One setting shows Custer sitting backwards on his Harley situated on a double yellow line on Co. Rd. 23.

"It's sad he never got to see the pictures. I never got around to showing him," Walker said. "You don't think he's not going to be around."

Walker put a slide show together of the photo collection and contacted the funeral home to see if they could use them for the service.

The suddenness of Custer's death left the family unprepared. Walker's collection was added to family albums also on display.

Brian Custer walked into the funeral home to see the bigger-than-life photos of his brother, accompanied by Lynyrd Skynyrd's song,"Free Bird"

"I didn't know about (the photos)," Brian said. "It blew me away."

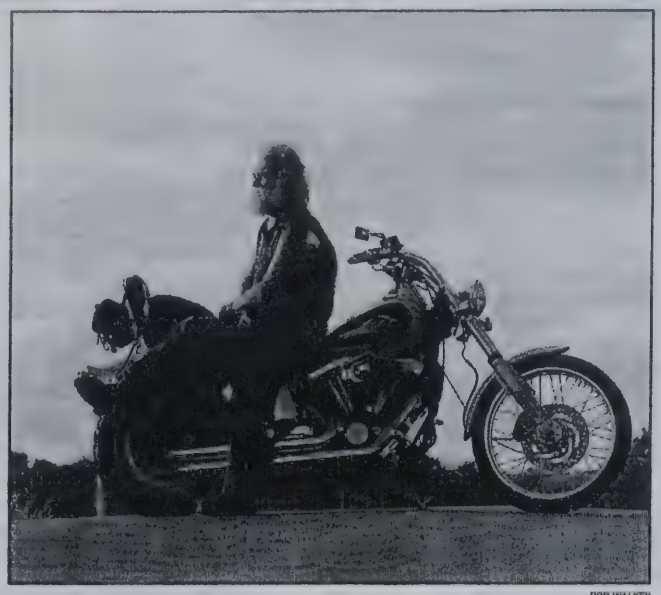
"Everything happens for a reason. I have to believe there was a reason for it to happen this way," Walker said. People phoned him later to say they were moved by the photos.

One of Bruce's uncles was so moved by the photos, he told Brian he had to leave the room. "He said it was 'too much.' (The photos) were so timely. Thank God (Walker) has those," Brian said.

Bruce Custer's lifetime love of Harleys, cars and trucks was no secret.

His 1968 Coronet RT equipped with a hemi engine is still a legend in Garrett.

"He beat the crap out of that car," said his son, Shane. "He would torture cars."



ROD WALKER

Bruce Custer looks off into the sunset in this photo taken by Rod Walker. Custer died Jan. 12 of a heart attack at age 61.

Custer Grain not yet founded when Bruce graduated from Garrett High School in the '60s.

He began work at Auburn Gear and then for the B&O Railroad. When Custer Grain began operation, he joined the family business as its main truck driver, hauling grain to Ohio every week.

Bruce soon began modifying the semi tractor for speed and power.

"He had a truck the other guys could not beat. They said they never saw the front of Bruce's truck, always the back," Brian said.

Bruce's citizen's band handle was BK. It stood for Boss' Kid.

"Not too many of the other drivers were the son of the company's owner. Bruce loved the name. It was lettered on the truck," Brian said.

Back trouble caused Bruce to step down from the long distance runs and he later spent most of his time driving the ag truck.

"He lost contact with those people for a number of years," Brian said. But many came from long distances to pay their respects at Bruce's funeral. "He was well-known around the area and he made a million friends," Brian said.

Bruce was extremely proud of his son Shane who worked as a test engineer for Harley Davidson in Lincoln, Ala.

"It seemed like destiny for Shane to work for a company that held so much importance to his father," Brian said.

Shane returned to Indiana to be with his family following the death of his mother, Diana.

"He always thought of the other guy," Shane said of his father. "He was the most trusting guy you ever met. He thought everybody was a nice person."

Brian's wife, Holly, echoed the sentiment.

"He was a good and dedicated. You could always count on him," she said.

She recounted Bruce's determination to drive her brother, Harris "Punk" Hoeffel Jr. and Paul Post of Auburn to their dialysis appointments in Fort Wayne during the blizzard of 1978.

"He had a black truck with high tires. There was not question — he just did it," she said.

Bruce's determination to make the run through the heavy snow might not have been just for humanitarian reasons, but also for the challenge, she laughed.

"Dad always tried to do stuff for the family," Shane said.

Bruce enjoyed helping Brian with his drag racing truck. When a last-minute transmission leak threatened Brian's ability to run in a race, Bruce left in the middle of the night to pick up parts at a Michigan auto parts store, forfeiting a day's wages in the process.

The past few years had been unhappy ones in some ways, but Bruce was returning to activities that brought him pleasure. He recently purchased a dilapidated semi tractor and reworked it with a big motor, according to Brian.

"He was going retro to what he did in the 1970s," Brian said. "He was really excited to kind of go back to where he was in those years — to go where he started. It was fun for him, a place that made him happy."

That spirit was conveyed in Walker's photos at the funeral home.

"We love and miss him very much," Shane said. "I hope he has found a place that brings him happiness."

THE EVENING STAR

February 8 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Anel Klopenstein

AUBURN — Anel L. Klopenstein, 96, died Friday, Feb 6, 2009, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Born in Chicago, she was a secretary with Northwestern Mutual for 16 years. She graduated from Warsaw High School in 1929 and was a member of the Indian Village Church of God Auburn.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Rosalie and Dan Hine of Moorseville; two grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Anna Suschycki Ristow; her husband, Alva L. Klopenstein in 1990; and step-son, Jack Klopenstein.

Services will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St. Burial will be in Leesburg Cemetery at 2 p.m. Wednesday.

Calling will be one hour prior to the service and also from 4-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials to Indian Village Church of God.

Connie Davis

AUBURN — Connie S. Davis, 57, of Auburn died Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009, at the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne with her family by her side.

Mrs. Davis

Ms. Davis had been courageously battling ovarian cancer since July 2006.

Prior to her illness, she worked at Hudson Industries.

She was a member of the Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church in Butler, and a member of the Cancer Survivors Group in Auburn. She enjoyed cooking, old cars, spending time with friends, and most of all spending time with her four grandsons.

She was born on March 4, 1951, in Wolf Lake to Ralph and Dorothy (Ellsworth) Mittendorf. They survive in Huntertown.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Joel and Kassy Davis, St. Joe, and Ben and Emily Davis, Auburn; four grandsons, Wyatt and Owen Davis, and Landon and Laban Davis; and a brother and sister-in-law, Dave and Cathy Mittendorf of Huntertown.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Rev. Mike Halferty officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

John Klein

AUBURN — John "Jerry" Klein, 82, of Auburn died Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Klein had been a sales manager for the United Technologies Co. for more than 35 years, retiring in 1986. He then co-founded SCP Inc. in Auburn.

He was a graduate of Logansport High School and Purdue University. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during World War II.

Mr. Klein was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn.

He was born Oct. 3, 1926, to John F. and Genevieve (Minneman) Klein. He married Gloria Grant on Sept. 10, 1949, in Logansport. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are five sons and daughters-in-law, Jeffrey and Ruby Klein of Kailua, Hawaii, Fritz Klein of Auburn, Steven and Susie Klein of Auburn, Bruce Klein of Auburn and Kevin and Marie Klein of Auburn; one daughter and son-in-law, Margaret Klein and Scott Krieg of Auburn; a sister, Carolyn Brink of Logansport; 11 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Grant Klein; a daughter, Marianne Klein; a brother, Joe Klein; a sister, Rosemary Seward; and a granddaughter.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Auburn, with Father Babasino Fernandez officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, and also one hour prior to the funeral Friday at the church.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Heart Association.

Betty Lewellyn

AUBURN — Betty J. Lewellyn, 78, of Auburn died Monday, Feb. 9, 2009, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Lewellyn was a homemaker.

She was a member of Auburn First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ.

She was born May 4, 1930, in Branch County, Mich., to Winnie and Ruby (Forrester) Cobb. She married Glen Lewellyn on June 22, 1952, and he died Sept. 5, 2008.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Dean and Kathy Lewellyn of Auburn; a granddaughter; two great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, five brothers and three sisters.

There will be no calling or services. Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Joanna Hoke

GARRETT — Joanna M. Hoke, 93, of Garrett and Nappanee died Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009, at her home.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Brethren in Christ Church in Nappanee with the Rev. Jay Williams officiating.

Burial will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday in Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett, with Pastor Joe Jaher assisting.

Calling will be from 3-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at Thompson-Lengacher & Yoder Funeral Home in Nappanee.

Memorials are to Nappanee Brethren in Christ Church or Brethren in Christ Wold Missions.

Glen Nodine

GARRETT — Glen G. Nodine, age 79, died on Tuesday, February 10, 2009, at 8:06 a.m. at his residence in Garrett, Ind.

Mr. Nodine

He was born on August 1, 1929, in Garrett, Ind., to Walter and Dolly (Curtland) Nodine and they preceded him in death. He married Patricia A. Rhodes on April 15, 1940, and she died on January 19, 2003.

He was an Army veteran, serving during the Korean War.

Mr. Nodine worked at McCray Refrigeration until its closing. He owned "the Hi Spot Tavern" in Garrett from 1971-1984. He had worked at Kitchen Quip and Tesco in Waterloo, Ind., retiring in 1993.

He was a member of the Garrett Presbyterian Church, the J.C.s, Eagles, Elks and the American Legion of Garrett.

Glen is survived by two sons, Michael and Mary Jane Nodine and Jon Nodine, all of Garrett, Ind.; two daughters, Cynthia DeWitt of Garrett, Ind., and Ralana and Bradley Pontius of Garrett, Ind.

He is also survived by his grandchildren, Dane DeWitt, Leandra DeWitt, Denissa Geeting, Anitra McClure, Todd Nodine, Beth Pontius, Adam Pontius Alex Nodine and Nick Nodine. The great-grandchildren surviving are Synndel DeWitt, Allyssia DeWitt, Dyllian Fender, Cheyenne Jensen, Casey Pontius, Caleb Grim, Bryce Nodine, London Nodine, Thackery McDonald, Sabin McClure, Abbey Geeting and Autumn Geeting.

Glen was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia A. Nodine; a son in-law, Forrest DeWitt; a great-grandchild, Preston Nodine; three brothers; and two sisters.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2009, from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett, Ind.

The funeral service will take place on Friday, February 13, 2009, at 10 a.m. at the funeral home, with the Rev. William Haworth officiating. Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery with graveside military services by the Garrett American Legion and VFW.

Memorials are to DeKalb Home Health and Hospice or for Cerebral Palsy.

To send a condolence or sign the on line guestbook go to www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Wendy Hunter

CORUNNA — Wendy Lynn Hunter, 52, of Corunna died Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009, at her residence.

Mrs. Hunter

Mrs. Hunter was a homemaker.

She was a member of The Hens Quilting Club and a supporter of the Kendallville Humane Society.

She was born on April 4, 1956, in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. She married Patrick A. Hunter on Nov. 12, 1983. He survives at Corunna.

Also surviving are her father, Mort Holcomb of Fort Wayne; her mother, Vickey Gleason of Kendallville; three daughters, Jodie Davis of Florida; Jamie (Bill) Gross of Toledo, Ohio, and Cherie Oden of Fort Wayne; a son, Jason (Shelly) Hunter of Fort Wayne; 10 grandchildren; two brothers, John (Pam) Gleason of Lafayette and Corky (Donna) Gleason of Fort Wayne; and a sister, Shirley (Gene) Gage of Arizona.

A gathering of family and friends will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 18, from 4-7 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett, with a celebration of life service to take place at 7 p.m.

Memorials are to the Kendallville Humane Society.

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook go to www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Betty Helfrich

COLUMBIA CITY — Betty J. Helfrich, 83, of Auburn and formerly of Waterloo and Columbia City died Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Helfrich

Mrs. Helfrich had worked for Whitley Products for a year, and assisted with the operations of V&H Oil Co. from 1966 until 1971. She had worked at the Dairy Queen in Waterloo for nine years.

She was a graduate of Larwill High School.

Mrs. Helfrich was a member of Columbia City United Methodist Church.

She was born March 25, 1925, in Whitley County to William Glenn and Ellen C. (Goodman) Shook. She married William O.V. Helfrich on Sept. 18, 1943. He died Dec. 5, 2008.

Surviving are a son, Richard L. "Rick" (JoAnn) Helfrich of Auburn; two daughters, Carol Ann (Carlos) Buckles of Columbia City and Linda J. "Lin" Helfrich of Auburn; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and a sister, Joan DeLor of Detroit, Mich.

She was also preceded in death by a sister, Sarah E. Shook, and a brother, Robert L. Shook.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Smith & Sons Funeral Home, Columbia City, with the Rev. Kenneth Walker, pastor of Argos United Methodist Church, officiating. Burial will be in Lakeview Cemetery, Larwill.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Arthritis Foundation.

Condolences may be sent to smithandsonsfuneralhome.com.

William Beckwith

KENDALLVILLE — William Beckwith, 84, of Kendallville died Monday, Feb. 9, 2009, at his residence.

Mr. Beckwith

Mr. Beckwith had owned Beckwith Heating & Plumbing in Kendallville for many years. In his later years, he owned Bill's Shoe Repair in Kendallville for about 11 years. He had also owned Knieffer's Bait Shop on Steinbarger Lake near Wawaka.

He was a life member and past commander of the Francis Vinyard VFW Post 2749 in Kendallville and was also an Indiana Past District Commander. He was also a member of American Legion Post 86 in Kendallville.

Mr. Beckwith attended Butler High School. He served in the United States Army during World War II and was a prisoner of war in Germany.

He was born in Cadillac, Mich., on July 3, 1924, to Frank and Hazel (Knapp) Beckwith. He married Betty Lou Johnston on Sept. 6, 1947, in Auburn. She survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are a daughter, Sherry and Dick Caldwell of Fort Wayne; a son, Jerry Erwin of Chandler, Ariz.; three grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; a sister, Marilyn Obendorf of Montpelier, Ohio; and a brother, Jack Beckwith of Montpelier.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Frankie and Darwin; four sisters, Norma, Lillian, Donna, and his infant twin, Wilma; and two stepbrothers, Tom and Bob Preston.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Thursday at Hite Funeral Home. Burial will be at a later date in Fairfield Cemetery near Corunna.

Calling will be from 1-3 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Francis Vinyard VFW Post 2749.

View a video tribute by Thursday or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Alice Klinger

ST. MARYS, Ohio — Alice "Fay" Klinger, 61, of St. Marys and formerly of the Auburn and Garrett areas died Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2009, at Joint Township District Hospital in St. Marys following a short illness.

Services were held in Ohio.

Richard Wirth

ROSEVILLE, Calif. — Richard Wirth, 76, of Roseville died Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009, with his family at his side.

He was an active member of St. Clare Parish in Roseville.

He was born Aug. 19, 1932, in Evansville, Ind., to Harold and Izetta Wirth.

Mr. Wirth

Surviving are his wife of 49 years, Gerry Wirth; his children, Michael Wirth, Timothy Wirth, Mary Wirth and Jane Toppings; two daughters-in-law, Chris Wirth and Deanna Wirth; a son-in-law, Milton Toppings; his grandchildren; and his sisters, Patricia Correia and Margie Cron of Auburn, Ind.

Funeral services will be Thursday at St. Clare Church, 1950 Junctin Blvd., Roseville, Calif.

A vigil will be held at 4:30 p.m. today at the church.

Chapel of the Valley Funeral Home in Citrus Heights, Calif., is in charge of arrangements.

George Kandel

BUTLER — George V. Kandel 78, of Butler died Wednesday at his home.

He was born on December 13, 1930, in Franklin Township to Howard and Helen (Smurr) Kandel.

Mr. Kandel

George was a graduate of Butler High School and Tri-State College. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean conflict.

He was the retired owner of Kandel Insurance Agency for more than 30 years.

George was a member of the Butler United Methodist Church; Forest Lodge 239 F.&A.M.; Scottish Rite Fort Wayne Valley; Butler American Legion Post 202; the International RSP Collectors, serving as president and board member; a former member of the Butler Rotary; a former member and president of the DeKalb Memorial Hospital board; and a former Butler City councilman.

He married Gwyneth Manges on June 8, 1956, in Garrett. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Gary and Darlene Kandel of Kendallville and David Kandel of Fort Wayne; one daughter, Cheryl Rogers of West Lafayette, Ind.; a sister, Lila Jean McConnell of Chapmansville, W.Va.; five grandchildren, Matthew, Megann and Kara Rogers and Jaclyn and Karly Kandel; two stepgrandchildren, Erica (Chris) Wehrmeister and Adam (Chele) VanWagner; and a stepgreat-grandson, Ethan VanWagner.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Herbert; and a sister, Kathryn Hall.

Funeral services for George V. Kandel will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Butler United Methodist Church, 501 W. Green St., Butler, with Pastor Kevin Marsh officiating. Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery with military honors by the Butler American Legion.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at the church and one hour prior to the service Saturday. A Masonic service will be held Friday at 7:30 p.m. at the church.

Preferred memorials are to the Butler United Methodist Church or Eastside Area Foundation.

H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home in Butler is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be left at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Thomas Mason

AUBURN — Thomas E. Mason, 92, of Auburn died February 10, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

He was born June 23, 1916, in Corunna, Ind., to Milo and Bithamae (Luttman) Mason.

Mr. Mason

He lived in Auburn most of his life and in the same home for the past 63 years.

On September 9, 1943, he married Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Griebel in Fort Wayne. She preceded him in death in 1979.

As a youth, Tom helped his family by working as a golf caddy and other jobs while participating in various school sport teams, receiving awards in basketball, football and track. He was elected class president, president of the Athletic Association, yearbook staff athletic editor, vice president of Hi-Y, and captain of the basketball team. He also joined the golf team his senior year where he developed a lifelong love of the game, going to the State Finals and later winning the club championship at the Auburn Country Club. He graduated from Auburn High School with the class of 1936.

Tom worked at General Electric in Fort Wayne where he learned to be an engraving plate maker. In 1949, he went to work at Messengers in Auburn where he made the plate that is used for a well-known picture of Jesus. When the plate was sold to Fort Wayne Engraving, Tom was hired to set up their new department. He retired from Fort Wayne Engraving in 1981.

He raised funds to build the Immaculate Conception Church in Auburn and was a member the rest of his life. He was a life-member of the Auburn Elks Lodge where he and Betty played bingo, worked on various committees and loved to dance and visit with friends.

Tom coached youth baseball when his boys were young and attended DeKalb basketball games until his health prevented it. He loved the sport and was especially fond of the Pacers.

Tom most enjoyed spending time at home with his family and puttering around the house. He took a lot of pride in being a good husband, dad and grandpa.

He is survived by one daughter and son-in-law, Pat and Jon Law of Sherwood, Michigan; two sons and daughters-in-law, Steve and Jane Mason of Auburn and Joe and Linda Mason of Roanoke; 10 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; nieces; nephews; and his sister, Rosalyn "Dode" Thorn.

He was preceded in death by his wife; his parents; and two sisters, Bernadine Wheeler and Maxine Chorpenning.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., with calling one hour prior to the service.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

If you wish to make a memorial donation in Tom's memory, the family asks that you consider the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, IN 46706.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Charles Petre

WATERLOO — Charles F. Petre, 57, died Thursday Feb. 12, 2009 at his home in Waterloo.

He worked at Airway Manufacturing in Auburn and was a member of New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo. He was a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran.

He was born Dec. 5, 1951, in Garrett to Frederick D. and Mary G. (Cook) Petre. His father is deceased and his mother survives in Waterloo.

He married Sandra Bricker on Dec. 27, 1985, in Coldwater, Mich., and she survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Luv Renee Hogan of Waterloo; a son, Charles F. Crager; two granddaughters, Stephannie and Shannyn Hogan, both of Waterloo; two brothers and sisters-in-law, John and Carol Petre of Auburn and Frederick Jr. and Valerie Petre of Ashley; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Bev and Pat Blanton of Ashley, Barb Sanders of Auburn and Beth and Tom Jensen of Ashley.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009, at New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo. The Rev. Ralph Diehl will officiate.

Memorials can be directed to American Cancer Society or Heartland Home Health and Hospice.

Feller Funeral Home of Waterloo is in charge of arrangements.

Mary Williamson

AUBURN — Mary Ellen Williamson, 89, of Auburn died Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009 at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

She was a homemaker.

She was born Feb. 3, 1920, in LaOtto to James and Florence Zolman. She married John Williamson on Feb. 26, 1936. He died Jan. 16, 1978.

Surviving are three daughters and a son-in-law, Sandra and Glen Rumsey of LaGrange, Judith D. Studebaker of Auburn and JoAnn Marzoline of Fresno, Calif.; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Jan D. and Polly Williamson of Rome City and John D. Williamson of Waterloo; 20 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; and 15 great-great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a son, James Williamson; a granddaughter, Gale Lynn Tucker; two sons-in-law, Thomas Studebaker and George Marzoline; two brothers; and seven sisters.

A memorial dinner will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday at the home of her daughter, Judith Studebaker, 1313 Timber Trace, Auburn.

Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo is handling arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR

February 14 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Marlene Gnagy

HAMILTON — Marlene A. Gnagy, 72, of Hamilton died Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009, at Lakeland Skilled Nursing and Rehab in Angola.

Mrs. Gnagy was a waitress for several years for Lakers Restaurant in Hamilton.

Mrs. Gnagy

She was a member of the Hamilton Fish and Game Club.

She was born Dec. 18, 1936, in Auburn to Horace and Mabel (Byers) Husselman.

Surviving are a daughter, Kim Gnagy of Hamilton; a son and daughter-in-law, Brad and Sarah Gnagy of Fort Wayne; two grandchildren, Graham and Carmen Gnagy; a sister and brother-in-law, Sandra and Larry Grantham of Hamilton; six nieces including Lori Hickey of Pleasant Lake; and four nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Jeffrey Gnagy; and a daughter, Lisa K. Gnagy.

Services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St, Waterloo, with Jeff Alexander officiating. Burial will be in Hamilton Cemetery, Hamilton.

Calling will be from 6-8 p.m. Monday and one hour prior to the funeral service Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Hamilton Fish and Game Club.

THE EVENING STAR

February 15 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Munger's piano brought joy, friendship

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

SNOW LAKE — Helen Munger made music and lake life a joyous part of her and her friends' lives.

Munger, 95, died Jan. 25, in Fort Wayne, where she had lived since 2002.

Munger played several instruments from an early age, and that love of music stayed with her throughout he life, said her daughter, Donna Ionni.

"My grandparents made sure that all their children had music lessons, whether it was an instrument or singing," Ionni said. "Music was a very important in my mother's family."

Munger grew proficient enough, Ionni said, that she ended up helping out a number of her fellow students at Orland High School as an accompanist during state competitions.

"She would have so many folks to accompany that when it came time for her to perform she couldn't remember her own music," Ionni said.

When Ionni was born, her mother was already performing music professionally, though not what you'd might expect.

"As far as I remember she started playing the accordion at a hotel in Elkhart," Ionni said.

That first taste of professional music work led to more opportunities in Fort Wayne, with regular slots at hotels and clubs playing piano.

"She had a huge following in Fort Wayne," Ionni said. "She had a piano bar setting. She tried to get everyone involved in sing-alongs."

While her mother mostly performed old standards and jazz, she also took audience requests. "She loved to get everyone singing and having a good time," Ionni said.

Despite her night hours Munger remained an active part of her children's lives, Murray Munger, Helen's son said.

"She ran quite a schedule. My father worked for the post office, so she would get up very early to see him off, then she'd take care of everyone. She'd take a power nap in the afternoon (usually 30-45 minutes) then she'd be making supper. Then she'd go off to wherever she was playing. Usually she wouldn't be home til 2 or 3 in the morning. Then she'd start it up again."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Helen Munger played piano professionally at clubs and hotels throughout northeast Indiana.

Despite their differing schedules, Munger and her husband, Wendell, were great parents, Ionni said.

"She was very protective. She always wanted to know where you were at all times. She was very loving," Ionni said. "I said they were a good team."

That teamwork, she said, came from hardship early in their marriage.

"When they were married in 1932, it was the Depression," Ionni explained. "They had an onion farm out on Nevada Mills Road and they worked hard all summer on it. Then in the fall, the price for onions dropped and the entire summer's work ended up getting them minimal money, like $75. My mother used to say they lived on love alone."

After a brief move to suburban Washington, D.C., when Wendell worked for the Postmaster General's office, the Mungers returned to the area, buying a cottage on Snow Lake's Deer Island.

"She definitely loved the lake life," Murray Munger said. "The lake was the ideal place for her. One time I remember the ice wasn't going out quite fast enough. She was standing on the dock, pushing it away with a stick and jumped in."

Both Ionni and Munger remembered their mother using her skills as a performer to great effect, entertaining friends who would gather at the Munger home.

"She was definitely a very social person," Murray said.

After Wendell's death in 2002, Helen eventually moved to Fort Wayne, where Ionni lives, then to a Fort Wayne assisted-living facility. There, she started up playing piano again, Ionni said. When her memory began to fail, she stopped playing, telling people she didn't want to play when she was missing notes, Ionni said. A few years later, for no particular reason, she started up again, playing the old jazz riffs she used to do in her heyday, Ionni said. Murray Munger said that's not entirely surprising.

"One of my aunts said at the memorial service that she always had those songs in her fingers," Munger said. "I always said I got a little hand-me-down from my mother that way."

Larry Erwin

BUTLER — Larry Erwin, 67, died Friday, Feb. 13, 2009, from ALS, at his home with his family at his side.

Mr. Erwin was born on a farm in Ashley on Jan. 16, 1942 to Ernest and Velda (Clark) Erwin.

He married Patricia Lea Getts on April 8, 1961, in the Evangelical United Brethren Church in Butler, she survives.

He was a very well respected dairy farmer for 25 years and was very innovative in his overall farming practices. He also worked at B. F. Goodrich for 12 years and was an escort for oversized loads.

He attended Butler United Methodist Church in Butler. He served on the Allen Dairy Board and several farm related organizations. He was a former member of the Butler Zoning Board.

He is also survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Thomas and Cheryl Erwin of Waterloo, and a daughter and son-in-law, Tricia and Greg Fawley of Lawton, Mich. Five grandchildren, Donovan and Clayton Strock and Tucker, Collin and Vance Erwin; and a sister and brother-in-law, Retha "Sam" and Denny Badman of Snow Lake.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Butler United Methodist Church, Butler, with the Rev. Kevin Marsh officiating.

Calling is Tuesday from 2 to 8 PM at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo.

Burial in Riverview Cemetery, Newville.

Pallbearers will be Richard Getts, Ronald Getts, Phil Ginder, Howard Troyer, Jim Miller, Ken Casebere, Wayne King and Roger Green.

Memorials can be directed to Butler United Methodist Church or DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

Elva Cook

ALBION — Elva E. Cook, 92, of Albion, died Friday, Feb. 13, 2009, at 5:15 a.m. at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

She was born Oct. 17, 1916, in Allen County to George and Ida Lee nee Ferguson Cook. She lived in the area most of her life.

She retired from McCray Refrigeration when it closed. She enjoyed playing dice, eating Chinese food and being with her friends.

She is survived by many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by brothers Dan, Emanuel "Buck," and David Cook; and sisters Bessie, Minerva, Charlotte, Hazel, Lola, Velma, Lillian and Martha.

Funeral services will be Monday at 2 p.m. at Brazzell Funeral Home, Albion Chapel. Pastor Rick Van Horn will officiate. Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Burial will be at Orange Cemetery in Rome City.

Memorials are to Noble County Relay for Life.

Frances Collins

ALBION — Frances Ann (Hall) Collins, 54, died Friday, Feb. 13, 2009 at her Albion home.

She was born March 4, 1954 in Vicco, Ky. to Eli and Hazel (Eversole) Sumner. Both preceded her in death.

She married Kenneth Ray Collins. He survives.

Mrs. Collins was a homemaker. Her hobbies were wood making and Arts. She was a member of Freewill Baptist Church, Waterloo, IN.

She is survived by two sons, Donald Richard Hall Jr., Jason Allen Hall; their father, Donald Richard Hall Sr., all of Mt Pleasant, Pa.; two stepdaughters, Nanetta Tucker of Albion and Sheila Hicks of Kendallville; three grandchildren, Nicole Ryan Toth of Perryopolis, Pa., Travis Eli Hall of Stahlstown, Pa., Ethan James Hall of Mt. Pleasant, Pa.; five stepgrandchildren; two sisters, Persie Sumner and Mary Pence both of Garrett; four brothers, Norman Sumner of Kodak, Ky., Esom Sumner of Hamilton, Coby Sumner of Kendallville and Danny Sumner of Rome City; and lots of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by one sister, Ora Lee Cody, three brothers Ove Wayne Sumner, Eli Sumner Jr. and John David Sumner.

A memorial service will be held 2 p.m. Wednesday at Freewill Baptist Church in Waterloo, with the Rev. Ron Stambaugh officiating.

Memorials are to the family.

Feller Funeral Home of Waterloo is assisting the family with arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR

February 15 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Ralph Rupert

KENDALLVILLE — Ralph J. Rupert, Jr., 71, of Kendallville died Friday, Feb. 13, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne following surgery.

Mr. Rupert

Mr. Rupert was born Jan. 11, 1938, in Fort Wayne to Ralph J. and Irene (Evans) Rupert.

He was retired from International Harvester, working with them in Fort Wayne and Springfield, Ohio. He was a U.S. Navy veteran

He is survived by two daughters, Kathy Barlow of Fort Wayne and Vickie Hield of Chicago; two sons, David Rupert of Noble County and Todd Rupert of Big Long Lake; six grandchildren; one great-grandchild; three sisters, Ruth Waldron of Kendallville; Carolyn Latta of Kendallville, and Jane Fluke of Auburn; and three brothers and sisters-in-law, Paul and Ruth Rupert of Topeka, Keith and Peg Rupert of Skinner Lake, and Greg and Deena Rupert of Skinner Lake.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Irene Rupert, and two brothers, Robert Rupert and Tom Rupert.

Funeral services will be Tuesday, at 11 a.m. in Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 South State Street, Kendallville.

Calling will be Monday, from 2-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville. Military graveside services will be conducted by VFW Post No. 2749 in Kendallville.

To view a video tribute or send condolences to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com

Marcella Berkey

KENDALLVILLE —. Marcella Berkey, 94, formerly of Fort Wayne and currently of Lake Placid, Fla., died Sunday, Feb. 15, 2009, at Cameron Memorial Hospital, Angola.

She was a homemaker who enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and family. She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lake Placid.

Mrs. Berkey

On March 20, 1924, in Fort Wayne, she was born to William and Caroline Bradtmueller. She married F. Dale Berkey on Oct. 17, 1942, in Fort Wayne. He preceded her in death on Aug. 6, 1997.

Survivors include: three sons and daughters-in-law, Michael and Nancy Berkey, and Denny and Elaine Berkey, all of Kendallville, and Brent and Janet Berkey, Rome City; three daughters and sons-in-law, Carol and Mike Smith, Angola, Carla and Charles Gray, Kendallville and Sally and Thom Brown, Racine, Wis.; 18 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; a brother, William Bradtmueller of North Carolina; and two sisters, Louise Tinsley, Fort Wayne, and Bernadine Leiter, Syracuse.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by six brothers and three sisters.

A memorial service will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Hite Funeral Home, Kendallville, with Pastor Lane Andrews from New Life Ministries in Waterloo officiating. Burial will be later in Greenlawn Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

Calling will be from 3-7 p.m. Tuesday and one hour prior to the memorial service at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Trinity Lutheran Church, 25 Lakeview St., Lake Placid, FL 33852.

View a video tribute by Tuesday or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Pauline Fender

FLEMING, Fla. — Pauline Elouise Fender, 73, formerly of Fremont, died Saturday, Feb. 14, 2009, at Orange Park Medical Center, Orange Park, Fla.

She worked at Dana Weatherhead in Angola for 27 years from 1969 until her retirement in 1996. She was a former member of PWP of Angola.

She was born Nov. 14, 1935, in Tampa, Fla. Her mother and stepfather were Marcellino and Betty Pauline (Williams) Crisostomo. They preceded her in death. She married Ernest A. Fender on Sept. 14, 1991, in Angola. He survives in Fleming Island, Fla.

Also surviving are two daughters, Betty Marcella Ford, Auburn, and Sandra Denise Harper, Flint, Mich.; a son, Edgar Lee Wortham, Greencove Springs, Fla.; two stepdaughters, Sheril Ann Worman, Corunna, and Laura Lee Madison, Fort Wayne; three stepsons, Ervin Fender, Auburn, Jeffery A. Fender, Kendallville, and Lonnie Lee Fender, Waterloo; 13 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; a sister, Gloria Jean Miles, Indianapolis; and a brother, Lowry Russell Young, San Antonio, Texas.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Joyce Marie Benson.

Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009, at Lakeside Cemetery, Fremont.

Memorials are to Shriner's Children's Hospital.

Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Loretta Demske

WOLCOTTVILLE — Loretta Mary Theresa Demske, 93, of Wolcottville died Tuesday, February 17, 2009, at 3:35 p.m. in Parkview Noble Hospital, Kendallville.

Mrs. Demske

Mrs. Demske had resided in the Wolcottville area since 1947. Most recently she resided at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

She was a 1934 Ashley High School graduate. She was a member of St. Gaspar Catholic Church in Rome City and the St. Gaspar Rosary Sodality.

She was born northeast of Waterloo on December 9, 1915, to John and Flora (Karst) Blomeke. On November 5, 1938, in Garrett she married Joseph O. Demske.

Surviving are a son, Joseph L. Demske of Howe; a daughter, Darlene Mault of Wawaka; four grandchildren, Joseph Demske Jr. of Bronson, Michigan, David and Amy Demske of Garrett, Jamie and Joe McGrath of Fort Wayne and Jeff and Abbey Mault of Kimmell; and six great-grandchildren, Jennifer, Megan, Libbey and Carter Demske and Jacob and Josh McGrath.

She was preceded in death by her husband on December 2, 1992; a brother, Cornelius Blomeke; a sister Lucille Yingling; a daughter-in-law, Patricia Demske; and a son-in-law, James Mault.

Mass of Christian Burial will be Saturday, February 21, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. in St. Gaspar Catholic Church, Rome City, with Father Bernard Ramenaden officiating. Burial will be in St. Gaspar Catholic Cemetery. Casketbearers will be Ron Brackevelt, Don Brackevelt, Joseph Demske Jr., David Demske, Jeff Mault, Joe McGrath, Todd Ely and Jack Mitchener.

Calling is Friday, February 20, 2009, from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. in Young Family Funeral Home, Wolcottville Chapel, State Road 9 North, Wolcottville, where there will be a Rosary service at 7:30 p.m.

Memorials are Masses to St. Gaspar Catholic Church in Rome City.

View a video tribute or send condolences to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Mark Ronning

FORT WAYNE — Mark Stephen Ronning, 43, went to be with his Lord and Savior Wednesday morning, February 18, 2009, after fighting a courageous battle against brain cancer. He was surrounded by his loving family who cared for him at home.

Mr. Ronning

Mark was a sales consultant for Maly's Beauty Supply of Fort Wayne.

He was a member of County Line Church of God.

He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing from Marysville University, St. Louis, Missouri.

He was an avid golfer and fisherman and passionate about computers and related technology. He loved politics and spending time with his children.

He was born Feb. 9, 1966, in Augsburg, Germany, to Lloyd and Else (Forve) Ronning. His father has passed on and his mother survives in Maryland Heights, Mo.

He married Libbie Brown on March 4, 2006, and she survives in Fort Wayne. He is also survived by two sons, Brandon and Stefan Ronning, both of Ballwin, Mo.; a stepdaughter, Shelby Ringenberg of Fort Wayne; a sister and brother-in-law, Karin and Peter Naeher of Kusel, Germany; a brother and sister-in-law, Mike and Judy Ronning of Sugarland, Texas, his in-laws, Jeff and Marcia Brown of Fort Wayne; brother-in-law and sisters-in-law, Dave and Holly Brown of Huntertown and Lynn Brown of St. Louis, Mo.; three nephews and two nieces.

Services will be 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009, at County Line Church of God, Auburn. The Rev. Bob Herman and the Rev. Stuart Kruse will officiate.

Burial will be in Highland Park Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

Calling will be Friday from 2 to 5 and 6 to 9 p.m. at the church.

Memorials can be directed to County Line Church of God, 17716 N. County Line Road, Auburn, IN 46706. Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Donald Jordan

GARRETT — Donald G. Jordan, 76, of Garrett died Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Cedar Lake Church of the Brethren, Corunna. Burial will be in Corunna Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett.

Donald Jordan

GARRETT — Donald Gene Jordan, 77 of Garrett died Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009, in Pontiac, Mich., in an auto accident.

Mr. Jordan had been the co-owner of the Corunna Hardware and Jordan Construction since 1962. He had worked at the waste water treatment plant in Garrett for 11 years, retiring in 1994.

Mr. Jordan

He was a member of the Cedar Lake Church of the Brethren, the United States Bowling Congress League and was an honorary Corunna firefighter.

He was born June 8, 1931, in DeKalb County to Elza C. and Carrie B. (Haynes) Jordan. He married Roberta A. Dawson on June 17, 1950, in Garrett. She survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are five sons, William and Terry Jordan of Garrett, Edward and Pam Jordan of New Haven, Steve and June Jordan of Garrett, Raymond and Leona Kratzman of Auburn and Joe and Teresa Kratzman of Scottsburg, Ind.; two daughters, Cindy and John Tarlton of Hudson and Penny Houser of Butler; four brothers, Robert L. Jordan of Garrett, Junior E. Jordan of Hudson, Franklin D. Jordan of Auburn and Dallas E. Jordan of Auburn; 21 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Loyal W. Jordan; and a sister, Helen N. Workman.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Cedar Lake Church of the Brethren at Corunna with the Rev. Paul Stauffer officiating. Burial will be in Corunna Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at Thomas Funeral Home at Garrett and one hour prior to services Saturday at the church.

Memorials are to the DeKalb Heart Association or the church. Send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting www.thomas funeralhome.org.

Judy A. Kovara

GARRETT — Judy A. Kovara, 61, of Garrett died at 10:13 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home.

She was a supervisor at Verizon, retiring in 2007.

Ms. Kovara

She was born Aug. 28, 1947, in Yonkers, N.Y., to Louis F. and Helen A. (Iannetti) Hyde.

Surviving are her father, Louis F. Hyde of Garrett; two brothers, Richard and Kathleen Hyde of Garrett and Joseph and Lori Hyde of Corunna; two sisters, Margaret R. Hyde of Fort Wayne and Patricia and Jim Duguid of Huntington; and her loving companion, Tod Kovara of Fort Wayne.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery at Garrett.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home or to the donor's choice.

Send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting www.thomas funeralhome.org.

Ted Congleton

CORUNNA — Ted R. Congleton, 47, of Corunna died Sunday, Feb. 15, 2009, at his home.

Mr. Congleton was currently working at Hendrickson Suspension in Kendallville and had worked there for over 25 years.

He and his wife were avid Indianapolis Colts fans. They loved to travel and take underwater pictures together.

He was born Feb. 11, 1962, in Auburn to Elmore and Ann (Robbins) Congleton.

He married Penny Reed on Dec. 13, 1980, at Butler Church of the Nazarene. She survives in Corunna.

Also surviving are one sister and brother-in-law, Truly and Jim Bailey of Waterloo; a nephew, Harley Wolfe; mother-in-law, Grace Reed-Langenfeld and her husband Don of Arizona; his grandmother-in-law, Opal Reed of Auburn; brothers-in-law, Larry Reed of Arizona, Danny Reed of Auburn and Robert Reed and his wife, Julie, of Arizona; two nephews-in-law, Isaac and Joshua Reed; a niece-in-law on the way, Abby Reed; and many other dear friends and family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and his father-in-law, Wallace Reed.

A memorial service will be at 3 p.m. Sunday at Butler Church of the Nazarene, 500 N. Beech St., Butler, with Pastor Paul Patton officiating.

Memorials may be directed to the family.

THE EVENING STAR

February 21 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Susan Hibler

FORT WAYNE — Susan D. Hibler, 60, died Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Hibler had been a secretary at Griffith Rubber in Garrett.

She was a native of Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Hibler

Surviving are her companion, Dan Bickel of Hudson; three sons, Michael (Dawn Carboni) Hibler Jr. and Bruce (Honor) Johnson, both of Fort Wayne, and Edward (Sheila) Hibler of Huntington; a daughter, Lisa Covey of Huntington; 12 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; a brother, Stanley (Judy) Reed Jr. of Huntertown; and two sisters, Bessie (Ronald) Fuhrman of Hoagland and Lois (Gary) Boldt of Fort Wayne.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Michael A. Hibler Sr. in 1993.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at D.O. McComb & Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Road, Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Highland Park Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association.

Ralph Baker

HAMILTON — Ralph I. Baker, 86, of Hamilton, died Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009, at Cameron Memorial Community Hospital, Angola.

He was a life-long farmer, and had also worked for Freuhauf Trailer in Fort Wayne for 26 years.

He was a member of St. Peter Lutheran Church, Edon, Ohio, the Paulding, Ohio, Masonic Lodge, where he had been a member the past 54 years, and the Order of Oddfellows, Hamilton.

On Oct. 9, 1922 in Paulding County, Ohio, he was born to Walter I. and Clara M. (Peters) Baker. He married Doris Ruth Bible on April 25, 1943, in Cairo, Ohio. She preceded him in death on Sept. 29, 2004.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Marilyn and Forest Bodiker, Waterloo; a son, Ronnie Baker, Edon, Ohio; 10 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandchild.

In addition to his wife, his parents, a daughter, Carolyn Case, a sister, Ruth Hartwig, and two great-grandchildren preceded him in death.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Oberlin-Ford Funeral Home, Hamilton, with Pastor Clayton Bailey officiating. Burial will be in Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

Condolences may be sent to the family and online guest register at oberlin-ford.com.

James George

INDIANAPOLIS — James Robert George, 92, of Indianapolis, died Friday, Feb. 20, 2009.

He was born Sept. 20, 1916, to Thomas Earl and Georgia Davis George in Auburn. He married Ruth N. Grogg in 1938. She preceded him in death on July 21, 2008.

He was a plant superintendent with Auburn Rubber Co. for 25 years and Richardson Rubber Co. for 25 years, retiring in 1988.

Mr. George was a member of Aldersgate Free Methodist Church, Auburn Masonic Lodge F & A. M., 32nd Degree Mason and Morningstar Golf Club.

Surviving are: two sons and daughters-in-law, Harold R. and Nancy (Harter) George, and Richard E. and Judy (Hanley) George; a daughter, Sharon M. Kuhn; six grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 4-7 p.m. Tuesday at Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel, 9606 E. Washington St., Indianapolis.

Memorials are to Aldersgate Free Methodist Church, 9035 E. 21st St., Indianapolis, IN 46229.

Alice Miller

LAKE WORTH, Fla. — Alice Jean Miller, 69, of Lake Worth, Fla., and formerly of Butler died Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009, at Bethesda Memorial Hospital in Lake Worth under the care of hospice.

She had been employed with the Lake Worth Herald for many years before her retirement.

She was a life member of the Lake Worth Order of the Eagles Aerie No. 3694, where she had served as past Madame President of the Ladies Auxiliary. She was also an active member of the American Legion Post 47 and Moose Lodge No. 994, and a life member of the VFW Post No. 4360, all of Lake Worth.

She was born Nov. 8, 1939, in Stryker, Ohio, to Roscoe and Virginia (DeGroff) Pursel.

Surviving are two sons, Kevin Welker and Kirby Welker, both of Butler; two stepsons, Joe Miller of Auburn and John Miller of Grabill; four grandchildren, Heather Welker, Jason Welker, Kylie Welker and Taylor Welker; two brothers, Don Pursel and Edward Pursel, both of Bryan, Ohio; three sisters, Janet Hammon of West Unity, Ohio, Janie Schmucker of Bryan, Ohio, and Pam Stark of Ney, Ohio; and her companion, Tony Fritz and his family of Lake Worth.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Robert Miller; a son, Kurtis Welker; a stepson, Robert Miller Jr.; and a sister, Sandy Werder.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Al Black officiating. Burial will be in Evansport Cemetery, Evansport, Ohio.

Calling will be from 4 -7 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the American Cancer Society.

Tae Robbins

GARRETT — Our little one who never gave up is finally home.

Tae M. "Tae Bug" Robbins, 28, passed away Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009, in Garrett.

Ms. Robbins

Born in Auburn, she was an administrative assistant with Community Transportation Network for two years and United Way in Auburn for one year.

She graduated from Garrett High School in 1999 and Indiana Business College in 2004 with an associate's degree in accounting assistant.

She loved scrapbooking, Internet and her nieces and nephews.

She is survived by her parents, Gary and Deb Robbins, Garrett; sisters, Tasha Robbins and Tabitha (Bill) Helmick, both of Garrett; grandparents, Ray and Sharon Beeler, Auburn, and Larry and Janet Snyder, LaGrange; niece, Jayden McNutt; nephews, Will Helmick and Aaron McNutt; special pet, Shitzu Benji; aunt, Julie Crabill; cousins, Shannon and Nick Scheumanna, and Stuart Crabill; and second cousin, Matthew Terry Scheumanna; and best friend, Cassie Yarian, Auburn.

She was preceded in death by her grandpa, Charles Robbins; and uncle, Terry Crabill.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at County Line Church of God, 7718 North County Line Road, with calling one hour prior. The Revs. Robert Herman and Stuart Kruse are officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will also be from 1-5 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the church.

Memorials are to ICU Parkview Pediatrics, Children First Center or Garrett Girls Athletics.

Arrangements are by McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Susan Sutton

AUBURN — Susan "Sudi" Sutton, 64, died Monday, February 23, 2009, at her home in Auburn.

She worked as a teacher's aide at Waterloo Elementary School before retiring in 2006.

Mrs. Sutton

She was a member of Auburn First United Methodist Church.

She was born April 11, 1944, in Auburn to the late Richard E. and Vivian E. (Davidson) Harpster.

She married Neil J. Sutton on October 25, 1963, in the Auburn Methodist Church and he survives.

She is also survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Beth and Steve Kelley of Auburn and Tricia and Mike Cochran of Fremont; a son, Mike Sutton of Auburn; six grandchildren, Lauren Kelley, Nick Kelley, Kyle Cochran, Evan Cochran, McKenna Sutton and Jaxson Sutton; a brother and sister-in-law, Dave and Renee Harpster of Auburn; and a nephew, Chad Harpster of Leo.

Services will be 11 a.m. Friday, February 27, 2009, at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo. Rev. Ted Jansen will officiate. Burial in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling is Thursday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to the DeKalb County Community Foundation or Auburn First United Methodist Church.

Marjorie Shook

AUBURN — Marjorie G. Shook, 90, died Monday, February 23, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Shook was an Office Assistant at the former V.C. Klink Insurance of Auburn for 15 years.

Mrs. Shook

She was the church organist for many years at St. Marks Lutheran Church in Auburn and also for Peace United Church of Christ in Fort Wayne.

She was a member of St. Marks Lutheran Church, the Church Organist Guild and the Kenwigs Literary Club.

She attended International Business College and DePauw University.

She was born January 6, 1919, in Latah County, Idaho, to Frank and Bertha (Gibbs) Parnell. She married Max L. Shook on March 21, 1947, in Auburn. He passed away on March 29, 1958.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Harry F. and Donna Shook of Fort Wayne; a daughter, Karla J. Shook of Greenville, Mich.; three stepgrandchildren and their spouses, Mark and Pam Novak, Megan and Doug Curtis and Dirk and Karen Novak; and two stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; and two brothers, Clyde Parnell and Clare Parnell.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at Trinity English Lutheran Church, 405 W. Wayne St., Fort Wayne, with Pastor Frederick E. Hasecke officiating.

A graveside service will be held at 12:30 p.m. Friday at Roselawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 5-8 p.m. Thursday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn.

Memorials can be directed to the DeKalb County Community Memorial Hospital Foundation or the Diabetes Association.

William Richards

ST. JOE — William L. Richards, 95, died Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009, at Shepherd of the Hill nursing home in Kendallville.

Mr. Richards was a lifelong farmer and a self-employed mechanic near Newville.

He was a World War II U.S. Army Air Corps veteran serving in Panama as an airplane mechanic.

He was born Dec. 28, 1913, in DeKalb County to Romeo and Nellie (Warner) Richards.

Surviving are two sisters, Ann Richards and Lelah Mae Ervin, both of St. Joe.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Esther Coburn, and a brother, Russell Richards.

Private family funeral services will be held on Thursday at Smith & Brown Funeral Home in Hicksville, Ohio, with the Rev. Merle Holden officiating. Burial will be at Newville Cemetery in Newville.

There will be no visitation.

Memorials are to Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home in Fort Wayne or St. Marks Lutheran Church of St. Joe.

Online condolences may sent to www.smithbrown funeralhome.com.

June Bartels

NOBLESVILLE — June B. Bartels, 96, of Noblesville was called to her eternal home on February 20, 2009.

Mrs. Bartels

She was born on June 19, 1912, to Albert H. and Della (Kester) Peters of DeKalb County. June married Franklin C. Bartels in 1934, and they enjoyed nearly 50 years of companionship until his death in 1984.

Growing up on a farm, June attended a one-room school and was later graduated from Auburn High School.

In her early years, she was a member of the DeKalb Hospital Guild, the DeKalb County Charm and Chatter Homemakers Club, and the Ladies Aide at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Activities June enjoyed included cooking, gardening, sewing, crafts and chalk talks. A dress June knitted was Grand Champion in the Groovy Grandma Division at the State Fair in 1971. She was a driver for Meals on Wheels until she was 80 years old.

June was known for being a lover of cats and had a variety of cat memorabilia.

A member of Christ Lutheran Church in Noblesville, June served on the Altar Guild and was active in The Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

June was affectionately called "Gigi" by her seven grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Surviving are her daughters, Doris (William) Boyer of Auburn, Ala., and Donna (Carl) Holl of Noblesville; her grandchildren, Kimberly (Tim) Etcheson of Columbia, S.C., Peggy (Chris) Sedlacek of Hoover, Ala., Teresa (Robert) Champion of Crestview, Fla., Catherine (Doug) Costelle of Avon, Cheryl (Joseph) Milukas of Darien, Conn., Mark (YuChong) Holl of Carmel and Michael Holl of Carmel.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at Christ Lutheran Church in Noblesville at 10 a.m., Saturday, March 7, with visitation one hour preceding the service. Burial will follow at 2:30 p.m. at Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn, Ind.

Memorials may be given to Christ Lutheran LWML, 10055 E. 186th St., Noblesville, IN 46060.

Geraldine Houser

AUBURN — Geraldine (Buhl) Houser, 92, of Auburn died Monday, February 23, 2009, at Wesley Health Care Center in Auburn.

She was born January 28, 1917, in Winchester, Ind.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, David and Sue Houser of Auburn; her grandchildren, Mike and Carrie Houser of Boston, Mass., and Nicki and Alex Pinnington of Auburn; and her great-grandchildren, Jackson, Madison and Gracie.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold.

There are no services.

McComb, Dilgard and Cline Funeral Home in Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Laura Hug

EDGERTON, Ohio — Laura L. Hug, 49, of Edgerton died at 8:15 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009, at Defiance Inpatient Hospice in Defiance, Ohio.

Mrs. Hug

Mrs. Hug was a 1978 graduate of Edon High School. She was employed at Spangler Candy Co. in Bryan, Ohio, as a sales secretary for 22 years and at Strup Insurance Agency in Edgerton as an agent for 12 years.

She was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Edgerton.

She was born Dec. 9, 1959, in Bryan to Marvin J. and Norma D. (Manges) Thiel. She married Van J. Hug on Nov. 22, 1996, in Bryan. He survives.

Also surviving are two sons, Andy (Tiffany Landers) Eich, of Auburn, Ind., and Joe (Sofia Serrano) Eich, of Montpelier, Ohio; two stepsons, Trevor Hug, of Tiffin, Ohio, and Ethan Hug, of Edgerton; two sisters, Susan Thiel, of Ayersville, Ohio, and Jacquith Imm, of Blakeslee, Ohio; and two brothers, Robert (Tricia) Thiel and Alan Thiel, both of Blakeslee, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in St. Mary Catholic Church, Edgerton, Ohio, with Father Stephen Schroeder officiating.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. Friday at Krill Funeral Home, 114 E. Hull St., in Edgerton.

Memorials are to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Condolences may be sent online to www.krillfuneralservice.com.

THE EVENING STAR

February 26 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Donald Stuart

EDGERTON, Ohio — Donald R. Stuart, age 79, of Edgerton, Ohio, died at 4 a.m. on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at Park View Nursing Center in Edgerton, where he had been a patient for a week.

Mr. Stuart

Mr. Stuart was employed as a truck mechanic at International Harvester in Fort Wayne, Indiana, retiring in 1983 with 36 years of service. He then managed the Edgerton Wash and Fill for 10 years and then managed the Waterloo Speedi-mart for 12 years, retiring in 2004.

Mr. Stuart was a veteran of the Korean War and a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Edgerton, Ohio.

Donald R. Stuart was born on September 9, 1929, in Cecil, Ohio, the son of Cecil and Flossie (Gordon) Stuart. He married Marietta Reas on December 30, 1952, in Bryan, Ohio, and she survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Rena Bowen of Edgerton, Ohio, and Machelle (John) Pepple of Waterloo, Indiana; a grandson, Cody Collin, of Waterloo, Indiana; and a stepgrandson, Jim Pepple of Waterloo.

Visitation for Donald R. Stuart will be today, Thursday, February 26, 2009, from 4-8 p.m. in the Krill Funeral Home, Edgerton, Ohio.

Services will be held on Friday, February 27, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. in St. Mary Catholic Church, Edgerton, Ohio, with Father Stephen Schroeder officiating. Interment will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery in Edgerton with graveside military rites conducted by John D. Smith Post 10 of the Edgerton American Legion.

Memorials in the name of Donald R. Stuart may be given to St. Mary Catholic School or Church.

Condolences may be sent to and the online register signed at www.krillfuneralservice.com.

THE EVENING STAR

February 27 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Crash kills one, injures three

St. Joe man dies; Butler trio hurt

SPENCERVILLE — A St. Joe man died and three Butler residents sustained serious injuries in a crash Thursday night on S.R. 1 south of Spencerville.

Jason R. Snook, 35, of the 500 block of Jefferson St., St. Joe, was pronounced dead at the scene, according to a DeKalb County Police news release. He suffered a fatal head injury, police said.

Snook was driving a 1996 Chevrolet Lumina that spun and collided with a 2006 Pontiac Montana driven by Melissa A. Cook, 29, of the 5100 block of C.R. 75-A, Butler. Cook sustained a fractured right leg and was listed in critical condition at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne, police said.

Two children in Cook's vehicle sustained internal trauma and also are listed in critical condition at Parkview Hospital. Trystan Jordan, 11, and Cameron Jordan, 9, both live at the same address as Cook, according to the police report.

Police said Snook was driving southbound in the 7100 block of S.R. 1 at 8:37 p.m. when his car went off the right side of the roadway. When it re-entered the road, he lost control of the car, and it spun counter-clockwise across the center line into the northbound lane.

Cook's northbound van hit Snook's car in the passenger side at a right angle. Snook was partially ejected by the impact.

The crash pinned Cook in her vehicle, and Southeast Fire Rescue personnel extricated her. A Samaritan Air Ambulance flew Cook and Cameron Jordan to Parkview Hospital. A Lutheran Air Ambulance took Trystan Jordan to the hospital.

DeKalb County Police Sgt. Adam D. Friedel investigated the crash.

DeKalb County Police received assistance from Northeast Allen County Fire Rescue, DeKalb EMS, the Allen County Sheriff's Department and the DeKalb County coroner's office, in addition to Southeast Fire Rescue, Lutheran Air and Samaritan Air.

JEFF JONES

A St. Joe man died and three Butler residents were critically injured in a crash Thursday on S.R. 1, south of Spencerville. The impact cut in half a car shown at left. It was driven by Jason R. Snook, 35, of St. Joe, who died at the scene. Three people in the van at right were flown to a Fort Wayne hospital for treatment.

Lawanda Myers

PLEASANT LAKE — Lowanda M. Myers, 70, of Pleasant Lake died Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009, at Northern Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Angola.

Mrs. Myers was a homemaker.

She was a member of the Independent Full Gospel Church in Ashley.

She was born May 23, 1938, in Garrett to Charles and Beulah (Curtland) Hurd.

Surviving are three sons, Bryan Myers and his companion Tonyia Sawyer, Gary Myers and Craig Myers, all of Pleasant Lake; four brothers and a sister-in-law, Charles Hurd of Bryan, Ohio, David Hurd of Westville, Ind., Steve and Sandy Hurd of Garrett and Johnny Hurd of Auburn; a sister and brother-in-law, Norma and Darwin Combs of Auburn; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 2 p.m. today at Independent Full Gospel Church in Ashley with the Rev. Sam Weimer officiating. Burial will be in Pleasant Lake Cemetery.

Calling will be from noon to 2 p.m. today at the church.

Memorials are to the family.

Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online to Johnson@bnin.net.

Robert Kuckuck

ROANOKE — Robert Kuckuck, 88, died Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009, at his son's home in Roanoke.

Mr. Kuckuck was a lifetime farmer and also worked for 11 years at Auburn Gear in Auburn before retiring in 1983.

He was born Feb. 11, 1921, in Corunna to Carl and Ida (Betz) Kuckuck. He married Jean Anderson on Dec. 18, 1941, in Decatur and she survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Jeanette and Elery Kimes of Bellville, Texas, and Mary Alice and Larry Stoy of Pleasant Lake; a son, Carl Kuckuck of Roanoke; 11 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Thelma Schmidt of Monsanto, Wash.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Judy Stoy; a granddaughter, Kristi Kimes; a great-grandson, Joshua Stoy; and three brothers, Russell, Lloyd and Orval Kuckuck.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo with Pastor James Bachman officiating. Burial in Circle Cemetery in Hudson.

Calling will be 5-8 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Hospice of Huntington.

THE EVENING STAR

February 28 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Glenna Tritch

HAMILTON — Glenna M. Tritch, 82, of Hamilton died Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

Mrs. Tritch

Mrs. Tritch worked for Harger's Meats in Hamilton and most recently at Gay's Supermarket in Angola, retiring in 1976.

She attended the Hamilton Church of Christ.

She was born May 22, 1926, in Otsego Township in Steuben County to Virgil and Goldie (Wright) Harger.

Surviving are two daughters, Pamela and Steve Graham of Amarillo, Texas, and Wendy and Mike Richardson of Hamilton; two sons and daughters-in-law, Joseph G. and Diane Chipman of Seaside, Calif., and Stephen and Diana Chipman of Hamilton; a brother and sister-in-law, Dean and Donna Harger of Hamilton; eight grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren with two on the way.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her first husband, Joseph Albert Chipman; her second husband, Donald Keith Tritch; and a son, Curtis Tritch.

A graveside service will be at 1 p.m. Monday at the Hamilton Cemetery in Hamilton, with Jeff Alexander officiating.

Memorials are to the Riley Children's Hospital or the Hamilton Church of Christ.

Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo is in charge of arrangements.

Jason Snook

ST. JOE — Jason Robert Snook, 35, of St. Joe died Thursday, Feb. 28, 2009, as the result of injuries in a traffic accident at Spencerville.

Mr. Snook worked as an assembler at Meridian Automotive in Grabill.

He was a member of the St. Joe Church of Christ in St. Joe.

He was born on March 24, 1973, in Harvard, Mass., to Steven Snook and Terrie (DeYoung) Mills.

Surviving are his mother and stepfather, Terrie and Michael Mills of St. Joe; his father, Steven Snook of Garrett; a brother, Michael Snook of St. Joe; two sisters, Joni (Daniel) Blanton of Garrett and Tricia (Jeff) Dowty of Fort Wayne; a niece, Alyssa Snook; a nephew, Korbin Allman; and his grandparents, Carl and Janice DeYoung of Corunna, Joan Mills of St. Joe and Gerry Snook of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by a grandmother, Mary Snook, and a grandfather, Ward Mills.

Calling will be held from 2-6 p.m. Sunday at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville.

Services will be held on Monday at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joe Church of Christ with Pastor Eddie Clark officiating. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery at St. Joe.

Memorials are to the family in care of Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, P.O. Box 165, Spencerville, IN 46788.

THE EVENING STAR
March 1 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Champion of the underdog

The Rev. Sidney Short of Auburn stood up for justice

BY DAVE KURTZ
dkurtz@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — The Rev. Sidney A. Short retired to Auburn in 1993. His 16 years in his new home must have seemed tame, compared to his 42-year career as a pastor in Michigan.

Short, who died Jan. 16 at the age of 80, was used to making waves in his congregations and communities.

He started early in his career, some 50 years ago, when he shared a pulpit with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Battle Creek's First Methodist Church.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Rev. Short

The city's largest black church could not hold the crowd expected to turn out for King, so Short's church offered to play host to the civil rights leader, said Short's son, Matt Short of Auburn.

"The church was jammed. They had people standing in the basement, even," the Rev. Short's wife, Alice, recalled.

The Rev. Short and King also dined together that night.

"I was most proud of him because he was very much a champion of civil rights," Matt Short said of his father.

A few years later in the 1960s, Short was pastoring a church in predominantly white St. Joseph, Mich. When he set up a shared Bible school with a black church in neighboring Benton Harbor, some people threatened to leave Short's congregation.

"He never backed down from anyone," his son recalled. "He said, 'You can't back down from doing the right thing, even if it's unpopular.'"

Short's last assignment took him to the 1,600-member Central United Methodist Church in Lansing, Mich., across the street from the state capitol building. He opened its doors to allow homeless people to sleep inside, started a food bank and clothing ministry and recruited black intern pastors.

"In that church in Lansing, we had CEOs and street people, and they were all welcome," Matt Short remembered.

The Rev. Short and his wife housed 125 refugees in their home, up to a dozen at a time, for short terms until they could find living quarters. They came from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Poland.

"I learned how to cook rice," Mrs. Short said.

Matt Short met his wife, Nhien, while her Vietnamese refugee family was staying with his parents.

The Shorts took in refugees through Catholic Social Services. The agency honored the Shorts as its family of the year in Lansing.

"People thought that was really funny, with him being a Methodist minister. He said, 'We're all on the same team,'" Matt Short said.

The Rev. Short entered college at age 16 and graduate school at 19.

"He wanted to be a minister when he was a little kid. That's all he wanted to be," his son said.

Growing up in Detroit fueled the Rev. Short's sense of social justice. But he enjoyed small-town life on some of his pastoral assignments and during his retirement in Auburn, his son said.

The Shorts moved to Auburn to be near their son, when Matt joined the staff of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum.

"He said, 'You can't back down from doing the right thing, even if it's unpopular.'"

Matt Short
Son of the Rev. Sidney Short

As a retired pastor, Short frequently preached in United Methodist churches at Hamilton and at Norris Chapel and Maple Grove in rural DeKalb County.

Local congregations learned he had a spirited sense of humor. In his office as a pastor, he displayed a painting of Jesus that portrayed Christ laughing, Matt Short said. "If He doesn't have a sense of humor, we're all in trouble," the Rev. Short would say.

"He loved Auburn," his son said. "He liked walking down to Peck's barber shop and getting a haircut and going over to talk to Owen Eckert," a local jeweler who died last year.

Short joined the Auburn Lions Club and attended Auburn First United Methodist Church, where he met a fellow retired pastor, the Rev. J. Wilbur Yates.

Short was "a man of strong convictions," Yates said, with "a deep dedication to the church and its traditions."

Short helped lead one of the most successful financial campaigns at the Auburn church, Yates said.

"He was a very enthusiastic man," Matt Short said of his father. "He was kind of a guy they sent in when a church was broken — to fix it. He could really rally enthusiasm."

THE EVENING STAR
March 3 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Thelma Sherlock

GARRETT — Thelma H. Sherlock, 97, died Monday, March 2, 2009, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

She was born in Richland Township. She was a homemaker and secretary for Ohio Art Co. in Bryan, Ohio, for 23 years, retiring in 1978. She also worked at Auburn Rubber Co. for over 20 years.

She was a member of First Christian Church in Auburn and was a past president of Richland Township Home Demonstration Club.

Surviving are her son-in-law, Gerald Kleeman of Garrett; two granddaughters, Lori Vieceli of Palatine, Ill., and Geraldine Kleeman of Chicago; a grandson, James Kleeman of London, Ohio; and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Hubert Sherlock.

A service will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. The Rev. M.W. Robert Craig will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials to First Christian Church, 910 N. Indiana Ave., Auburn, IN 46706.

THE EVENING STAR
March 4 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Chester Rigsby

ASHLEY — Chester A. Rigsby, 83, of Ashley died Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at his home in Ashley.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at the Independent Full Gospel Church in Ashley. The Rev. Sam Weimer will officiate. Burial will be in Mt. Zion Cemetery at Golden Lake.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the church and one hour prior to the service Friday. Memorials are to the family.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo is assisting with arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
March 5 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Marguerite Kaiser

SPENCERVILLE — Marguerite E. Kaiser, 77, of Spencerville died Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Harlan, with burial in Scipio Cemetery.

Calling will be from 1-3 and 5-7 p.m. Friday at the church and one hour prior to services.

Memorials are to the church or the American Heart Association.

Hockemeyer Funeral Home in Harlan is in charge of arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
March 6 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Marguerite Kaiser

SPENCERVILLE — Marguerite E. Kaiser, 77, of Spencerville died Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Kaiser had been a dietary aide for 12 years, retiring in 1996. She had also been a preschool teacher for many years.

Marguerite was a dedicated and loving wife, mother and grandmother. She loved to cook and plan family events.

She was a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and American Legion Post 409 Auxiliary.

She was born Aug. 4, 1931, in Spencerville to Ora and Dorothy (Hammon) Smith.

Surviving are her husband of 51 years, Melvin W. Kaiser; a daughter and son-in-law, Rita and Mike Osborne of Spencerville; a son and daughter-in-law, Paul and Tammie Kaiser of Leo; a brother and sister-in-law, William "Bill" and Carol Smith of Spencerville; a "sister" and her husband, Dorothy and Rufus Dominguez of Florida; and six grandchildren, Nathan (Elise) Kaiser, Jess (Dani) Kaiser, Paige Kaiser, Payton Kaiser, Katelyn Osborne and Ellen Osborne.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Harlan with Pastor Amy Beitelschees-Albers officiating. Burial will be in Scipio Cemetery rural Harlan.

Calling will be from 1-3 and 5-7 p.m. today at the church.

Memorials are to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church or the American Heart Association.

Hockemeyer Funeral Home in Harlan is in charge of arrangements.

Donna Wright

KENDALLVILLE — Donna Mai Wright, 77, of Kendallville died Thursday, March 5, 2009, at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Cathey and Greg McNeal in DeKalb County.

Mrs. Wright

She moved from Alva, Okla., in the '60s and lived in New Jersey, Alabama and in Midland, Mich., for more than 30 years. She moved to Kendallville in 1993 from Michigan.

Mrs. Wright was a member of the First Christian Church in Kendallville.

She was also a member of golf leagues at the Elks and at Cobblestone.

Mrs. Wright was a past member of the Kendallville Planning Commission, a past Cole Center Family YMCA board member, and president of the neighborhood association for Knolls of Fairview.

Mrs. Wright was born in Weatherford, Okla., on Aug. 5, 1931, to Alford Wayne and Opal Geraldine (Munson) Mallory. She married Paul Edward Wright on May 27, 1949, in Oklahoma the day after she graduated from high school. He died in February 1989.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Cathey and Greg McNeal of Corunna; a son, Chris Earl Wright of Cadillac, Mich.; four grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; and a sister and brother-in-law, Waynell and Robert Wiebener of Alva, Okla.

She was also preceded in death by her parents.

Services will be at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at First Christian Church, 110 W. Waits Road, Kendallville, with the Rev. Dr. Thomas Clothier officiating. Burial and graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Alva Cemetery in Alva, Okla.

Calling will be from 3-7 p.m. today at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St. in Kendallville, and one hour prior to services Sunday at the church.

Memorials are to the First Christian Church Building Fund.

View a video tribute or send condolences online to www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Ronald Morris

BUTLER — Ronald Morris, 65, of Butler died Friday, March 6, 2009, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home.

No visitation or funeral services are planned.

Arrangements are by H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home in Butler.

I. Glenn Moore

AUBURN — I. Glenn Moore, 72, of Auburn died Thursday, March 5, 2009, at his home.

Mr. Moore worked at Fleet Service for North American Van Lines for 20 years, retiring Jan. 1, 1997.

Mr. Moore

He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving from 1955 to 1959.

He was an active member of the Cedar Creek Church of Christ in Fort Wayne.

He was born Nov. 9, 1936, in Cumberland Gap, Tennessee, to William C. and Georgia A. (Pierce) Moore. They both preceded him in death.

He married Linda Jo Newton, and she survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are one son and daughter-in-law, Glenn Eric and Jeannine Moore of Leo; one daughter and son-in-law, Sherri Jo and Chet Chambers of Auburn; three grandchildren, Mary Michelle Moore, Grace Jeannine Moore, and Hunter Ruth Chambers; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Lois F. and Homer Gause of Fort Wayne, and Norma Pierce of Lake City, Fla.; and a brother and sister-in-law, William C. and Mary Moore of Fort Wayne.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. on Monday at Cedar Creek Church of Christ, 12606 Leo Road, Fort Wayne, with ministers Mike Kjergaard, Greg Krafft, and Ron Collins officiating. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling will be from 3-7 p.m. Sunday at Cedar Creek Church of Christ, Fort Wayne.

Memorials may be directed to the Cedar Creek Church of Christ or the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge, 411 2nd St. NW, Rochester, MN 55901.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
March 8 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Mann was all about her family

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Crystal Mann made her life all about her family.

Mann, who was a member of a number of community organizations in the Angola area, died Feb. 14, at 81.

"Mom had lots of friends. You could hardly catch her at home," daughter Denise Hicks said. "It was always this club or that club. I never saw anyone get so many cards on their birthday. It was amazing. She was just a people person. When my dad (Richard Mann) died, she got involved in a lot of these clubs."

Mann was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the Red Hat Society, the Steuben County Woman's Club and a number of clubs at the Angola Christian Church, where she also taught Sunday school.

"She taught Sunday school for over 25 years," Mann said. "She would have eight to 10 kids in class every week," said her son, Randy Mann.

Mann said in many ways his mother was picking up the torch for her mother-in-law, who'd helped to keep the financial books for the family's repair shop on North Wayne Street.

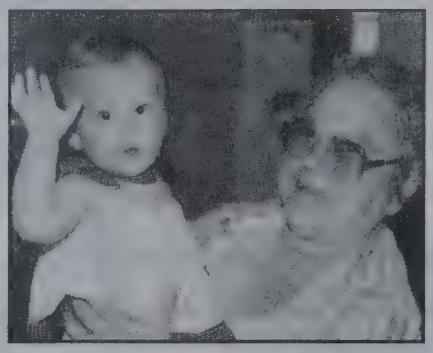


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Crystal Mann of Angola was active in the community and cherished time with her family, like her granddaughter Brittany, whether it was making them lunch during work or breakfast before school.

"She just sort of took over the bookkeeping," Mann said, "(We) kids had pretty much grown up out there at the shop. Whenever Mom would have business in town she'd drop us off there."

The relationship between the two women was a good one, he said, and many of the clubs her mother-in-law belonged to she joined. "She knew a lot of the women Grandma Mann knew," Mann said.

Hicks said her mother's sense of family would really shine through in her cooking.

"The biggest thing she was known for was her sugar cookies," she said.

But her cooking went beyond just sweets. "She could always win your heart with her cooking. For me it would be a call me at work and say 'Stop by, I made you salmon patties,' or 'chop suey. Stop by and it will be ready after you get off work.'"

There'd be plenty of mornings, Hicks said, when she would drop her son off at her mother's before school and she would make him breakfast and then get sent off to Carlin Park Elementary or Angola Middle School. "No one, meaning me, could fix bacon the way Grandma did," Hicks said.

Mann said that for their family, their mother was always always an important center. "She was always there for us," Randy said. "She was quite the lady."

THE EVENING STAR
March 8 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Rosemary Bowman

AUBURN — Rosemary A. Bowman, 79, of Auburn, died Friday, March 6, 2009, at Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

She was born Feb. 9, 1930, in Auburn to Ray D. and Goldie B. (Livergood) Antrup. She married Andrew Bowman on April 7, 1946, in Auburn, and he survives in Auburn.

Mrs. Bowman

Mrs. Bowman worked for Zimmer of Statesville, N.C. She was a member of the Auburn Church of Christ.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Marilyn D. and Forrest Skidmore of Statesville, N.C., and Shirley A. Bowman of Garrett; two sons and daughters-in-law, Larry J. and Charlene Bowman of Auburn, and Douglas E. and Gail Bowman of Hamptonville, N.C.; a half sister, Mabel Easterday of Coldwater, Mich.; a brother, Don Matheny of Virginia; 10 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a half sister, Claire Catherine Gilbert; and a brother, John Antrup.

Funeral services will be 1 p.m. Tuesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor Paul Marki officiating.

Calling will be from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Memorials may be directed to DeKalb Memorial Hospice or Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home.

Eleanor Schlictenmyer

KENDALLVILLE — Eleanor Louise Schlictenmyer, 85, of Kendallville died Sunday, March 8, 2009, at her residence.

Mrs. Schlictenmyer

She was a waitress for 34 years at Publix Cafe at the corner of U.S. 6 and S.R. 3 North in Kendallville, and also worked for 12 years at King Seeley in Kendallville from where she retired.

She was born in Kendallville on Jan. 3, 1924, to Charles and Ruby (Martin) Hart. She married Robert Harry Schlichtenmyer on May 8, 1947, in Albion, and he preceded her in death on July 26, 1990.

Survivors include: a daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Larry Heller, Kendallville; two grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; two sisters, Madelene Zimmerman, Berne, and Barbara Rowe, Garrett; and a brother, Charles "Roy" Hart, Scotts, Mich.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers, Jack, Richard and Carl Hart, and two sisters, Charlotte Ball and June Freed.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St., Kendallville, with Rev. Dr. Dan Barker officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery, Kendallville.

Calling will be from 1-2 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Association.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Angela Lung

GARRETT — Angela K. Lung, 57, of Garrett died at 6:15 p.m. Sunday, March 8, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Lung was a lifetime Garrett resident and had owned and operated TLC Daycare in Garrett for 33 years.

Mrs. Lung

She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett.

She was born Oct. 6, 1951, in Garrett to John and Caroline (Falcone) Muzzillo and they preceded her in death. She married Harry W. Lung on Sept. 8, 1973, in Garrett and he survives in Garrett.

She is also survived by a son, Jeremy Michael Lung of Garrett.

She was also preceded in death by a sister, Judith Ann Fields.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett with Father Andrew Nazareth officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday at Thomas Funeral Home at Garrett, with a rosary service at 7:30 p.m. There will be additional calling from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday at the church.

Memorials are to St. Joseph Catholic Church, St. Joseph Catholic School or St. Jude Shrine.

Send condolences or sign the online register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Carolyn Miller

AUBURN — Carolyn Sue Miller, 51, of Auburn died Sunday, March 8, 2009, at Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery, rural Garrett.

Calling will be from 5-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Mildred Close

AUBURN — Mildred E. Close, 102, of Auburn died Monday, March 9, 2009, at her daughter's home in Columbus, Ohio.

Mrs. Close was born Feb. 26, 1907, in Auburn to the late Charles F. and Elmyra (Draper) Nagle.

She worked for nine years for Auburn's Electric and Water Department and she retired in 1970 after 30 years as a DeKalb County Deputy Treasurer.

She joined the Auburn Presbyterian Church on April 16, 1933, and has been very active in the church all her life. She was a former president and vice president of the Presbyterian Women's Association, president and vice president of Ruth Circle of the church, former choir member, taught second and third grade Sunday school, and was a youth sponsor and pianist for the youth primary group.

She taught Bible school for many years, was a leader with Girl Scouts and Brownies and held an honorary membership in National Missions.

She was a charter member of the Sigma Beta Sorority, serving as its past president and vice president. She was a 50-year member of Auburn Chapter of Eastern Star and a charter member of the ACD Museum and ACD Women's Association.

Mrs. Clouse was a member of Ladies Literary Club and Friends of the Library. She served on the Auburn and DeKalb County Heart Fund Drive and was vice president of the Northeast Heart Association board.

She married Maurice W. Close on June 25, 1931, in Auburn and he passed away Jan. 7 1995.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Dr. Frederick W. and Eva Close of Solana Beach, Calif.; a daughter and son-in-law, Carole Ann and Tom McCaffrey of Columbus, Ohio; a brother, Carl Nagle of Phoenix, Ariz.; three grandsons, Eric and Keri Close, Randy and Deirdre Close and Christopher and C.J. Close; a stepgrand-daughter Christina Evans; five great-grandchildren, Katie Close, Ella Close, Samuel Close, Zachary Close and Ryder Close; and four stepgreat-grandchildren, Ryan Evans, Isaac Evans, David Evans and Ben Evans.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; a granddaughter, Suzanne Foose; a brother, Hobart Nagle; and three sisters, Esther L. Close, Dorothy Haite and Ruth Strahm.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 14, 2009, at the Auburn Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Bill Haworth will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling is Friday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, with an Eastern Star service at 8 p.m.

Memorials can be directed to the Auburn Presbyterian Church.

Carolyn Miller

AUBURN — Carolyn Sue Miller, 51, of Auburn died Sunday, March 8, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Ms. Miller

Ms. Miller worked at Mossberg Industries in Garrett where she had been employed for more than 30 years.

She was a member of the New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo.

She was born Nov. 26, 1957, in Garrett to Robert and Lucy (Bischoff) Ballentine. They both preceded her in death.

Surviving are two sons, Ben Miller of Auburn, and Vess Miller and Bruce Davis of Indianapolis; a brother and sister-in-law, Fred and Gloria Ballentine of Butler; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Sandy and Wes Albright of Garrett, Cindy and Rick Rowe of Garrett, and Marie and Paul Brewer of Auburn; and her fiance, Dennis Dawson of Huntertown.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Amy Debeck officiating. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery, rural Garrett.

Calling will be from 5-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to DeKalb County Humane Society.

THE EVENING STAR
March 12 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Connie Parker

CORUNNA — Connie B. Parker, 66, died Monday, March 9, 2009, at her home in Corunna.

She worked in the cafeteria at Eastside High School in Butler.

She was a big Elvis fan and an avid antique collector, but her true passion was her grandchildren.

Mrs. Parker

She was born March 6, 1943, in Auburn to Kenneth Smith and Beatrice (Mansfield) Harr.

Surviving are two sons, David Parker of Corunna, and Billy Joe Parker of Butler; a daughter and son-in-law, Candy and Rich Hartman of Butler; a sister, Betty Fluke of Butler; three grandchildren, Tyson Owsley, Randa and Jon Katschke, and Jill Hartman; one aunt, Dorothy Stevenson of Butler; and one uncle and his wife, Cal and Eula Mansfield of Auburn.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Richard Parker, who passed away in 1996; and a brother, James Mansfield.

There will be no calling or services at this time. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be directed to the family.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Bud Minnick

AUBURN — Bud V. Minnick, 90, of Auburn died Thursday, March 12, 2009, at Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

Family services will be held at a later date. Burial will be at Scipio Cemetery, Harlan. Memorials to Leo United Methodist Church or Laurels of DeKalb.

Arrangements by Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, Spencerville.

Mary Frankenberg

KENDALLVILLE — Mary M. Frankenberg, 99, of Kendallville died Thursday, March 12, 2009, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla, where she resided the past five years.

Mrs. Frankenberg had been employed with Messenger Corp. in Auburn and she retired from McCray Refrigeration in Kendallville as a bookkeeper.

She was a member of the CrossPointe Family Church in Kendallville where she had been the Sunday school and Mission Society treasurer, and served as the church organist and pianist.

Mrs. Frankenberg was born in Chicago, Ill., on Nov. 4, 1909, to John and Lydia (Sollenberger) Simons. She grew up near Corunna, moved to Kendallville in 1942 and graduated from Kendallville High School in 1926.

She was married to James Frankenberg on June 28, 1982, in Three Rivers, Mich.

No family members survive.

Memorial services will be scheduled at a later date.

Burial will be at Christian Union Cemetery near Garrett at a later date.

Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville is in charge of arrangements.

John Stetler

FORT WAYNE — John L. "Jack" Stetler, 81, died Wednesday, March 11, 2009, at Bethlehem Woods Rehab Center in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Stetler

Mr. Stetler served as a patrolman with the Fort Wayne Police Department for 20 years, retiring in 1969. He was the last surviving member of the first graduating class, known as the "Sweet Sixteen," from the Police Academy.

He was a native of Fremont.

He was a U.S. Army Air Corps veteran and was a member of Calvary Third United Presbyterian Church.

Surviving are his wife of 61 years, Anna Lee Stetler of Fort Wayne; a son, Keith Stetler of Spencerville; a daughter, Karen (Tim) Grube of Corunna; seven grandchildren; two stepgrandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a stepgreat-grandchild; and a son-in-law, Lee Hapner.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Janet Hapner; three brothers, Dick, Dean and Bob Stetler; a stepbrother, Raymond Griesley; and a stepsister, Joan Van Den Assem.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at D.O. McComb & Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Road. The Rev. Joe Fields will officiate. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens.

Calling will be from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home and one hour prior to services.

Memorials are to Calvary Third Presbyterian Church or FOP.

THE EVENING STAR

March 15 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Robbins 'was such a miracle'

BY SUE CARPENTER
suec@kpcnews.net

GARRETT — The first piece of net cut down following the Garrett High School girls' regional basketball victory Feb. 21 was in honor of Tae Robbins.

Coach Dan Feagler told her parents, Gary and Deb Robbins, that Tae was there for the girls' first regional title, and the team and coaches thought it was only fitting that the former team manager should be a part of this year's victory.

Text messages flew from phone-to-phone in the Elkhart North gymnasium earlier that day, telling friends of Tae Robbins' unexpected death at the age of 28.

Known to many as "Taebug," she was born with cerebro costo mandibular syndrome.

"She was such a miracle," her mother said. Doctors told her Tae should not have been able to live with all her disabilities. She still did.

"There was no real explanation how she should be alive. We were always told she would not walk, she would not talk. She did everything. She proved so many people wrong." Robbins said.

Tae's parents didn't try to stop her from trying to live a normal life.

"We never allowed her not to try. We never said 'no.' If things got difficult, we would tell her get through it or go around it. It wasn't a gimme," Deb Robbins said. "We got a lot of flack from outside the family that we did not baby her. I don't feel she would have lived as long as she did, if we had."

Robbins was struck by the number of barriers her daughter broke with classmates and the community during her lifetime.

She was accepted the way she was, and people looked past her disabilities. "Her friends treated her like any other friend. It was never 'Oh, poor Tae,'" her mother said.

Classmate Arin Smith Grissam got to know Tae for the first time in band class when they were freshmen at Garrett.

"When you first meet her, it's kind of intimidating," Grissam said of Tae's disabilities. "The second she started talking, she took me by surprise. She was one of the most intelligent people I ever met."

Grissam recalls attending a percussion band camp with Tae and the looks they recieved from other youth at the camp.

"Nobody knew us, and they just stared at Tae," Grissam said. "It must have been hard for Tae to deal with. But it didn't seem to bug her at all. She let it roll. That seemed pretty impressive."

Tae's small stature did not take away from the strength she showed. Friends and family learned not to show sympathy or concern for Tae's condition.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Tae Robbins, center, enjoy visiting hundreds of friends at a benefit two days before her unexpected death Feb. 21. She is shown with her parents, Deb and Gary Robbins of Garrett.

"Tae was always in pain, but she would never tell you," Grissam said. "If you ever tried to pity or treat her differently, she would get really mad — she would give you 'the look.'"

Tae also liked to have fun, childhood friend Holly Brewer Kober said.

"She loved to go dancing, go to concerts, cruise around just out and about, or just simply hang out with friends," Kober said. "Tae always lived life to the fullest and always wanted to have a good time."

Two days before her unexpected death, a benefit event was held to help Tae with her medical costs. At that time, Robbins said, Tae had achieved all of her lifetime goals but two — marriage and having a baby. She had already graduated from business college, secured employment, purchased her own home and had her own car. The proceeds from the benefit were to help buy a van with special controls for Tae's motorized chair. The funds have since been used to help pay funeral expenses.

"The benefit was so weird," Deb Robbins said. "We knew Tae had a cold, but was not sick-sick. Looking back, (the benefit) was like a final farewell party. She was so happy."

Tae was happy to see so many friends she hadn't seen for a while. More than 300 attended the event at Ponderosa Steak House in Auburn.

Her family had seen her much sicker, so her death came as a surprise.

"It was shock when she passed," Deb Robbins said.

Recent health setbacks caused Tae to be in a lot of pain, and her weight hovered at 65 pounds. Her frame was shrinking and her organs were becoming compressed, leaving her rib cage resting on her pelvis.

"I told her a couple weeks earlier, 'If you don't straighten up, you'll have to come home,'" Deb Robbins said of Tae's health.

"Tae told her sisters she was not going back home. 'I'm dying in my own house, in my own bed,' she told them. That's what happened," Robbins said.

Robbins later learned Tae was concerned that if she died in her parent's home, they would not be able to continue to live there.

"It's just amazing. She knew me and dad. She was very right."

Tae often would send letters, e-mails and cards to friends to let them know she was thinking about them, or call or text to say, "Hi, I'm thinking about you. I miss you and love you," according to Holly Kober. "Tae taught me how to love unconditionally and full-heartedly. She made me a better person just by being her friend."

Arin Grissam is now the mother of two young sons. The older is autistic with low muscle strength. Her other son has a cleft palate and hearing loss.

"When I get frustrated or start to feel sorry for myself, I think of Tae. She never stopped smiling or complained," said Grissam.

"She has been a big help to remind me what was important. I love her for that."

Bud Minnick

AUBURN — Bud V. Minnick, 90, died Thursday, March 12, 2009, at Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

He worked as a hardware salesman and was a World War II U.S. Army veteran.

Mr. Minnick was born Dec. 18, 1918, in Fort Wayne to Fred and Jessie (Trammel) Minnick. He married Gaylon Amstutz on Aug. 29, 1940. She preceded him in death on June 8, 1992.

Surviving are a son, Gary Minnick, Auburn; daughter and son-in-law, Ann and Richard Garren, Leo; four grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Sandra K. Seiler on June 26, 1997; a son, Thomas Minnick on Dec. 7, 1952; one brother and two sisters.

Family services will be at a later date. Burial will be at Scipio Cemetery, Harlan.

Memorials are to Leo United Methodist Church or Laurels of DeKalb.

Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, Spencerville, is in charge of arrangements.

Ronald Vian

ASHLEY — Ronald J. Vian, 44, of Ashley, died Saturday, March 14, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, Auburn.

He worked for Kaghann's Korner Truck Stop, Waterloo.

He was born Nov. 12, 1964, in Auburn.

Surviving are his father and stepmother, Lyle and Janet Vian, Waterloo; a son, Corey Vian, Ashley; a daughter, Megan Vian, Ashley; two sisters, Linda Couey, Fort Wayne, and Kay Carper, Butler; four brothers, John Vian, Renton, Wash., Denny Vian, Corunna, David Vian, Auburn, and Scott Vian, Tecumseh, Mich.; three stepsisters, Katrina McKinley, Kendallville, Jennifer Pulver, Avilla, and Meghann Treesh, Kendallville; two stepbrothers, Thad McKinley, Auburn, and Seth McKinley, Kendallville; and friend and companion, Rebecca Voirol, Ashley.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Emogene (Hilkey) Vian.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Paul Patton officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery, rural Corunna.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Corey and Megan Vian Educational Fund c/o Linda Couey.

Joe Craft

KENDALLVILLE — Joe Darrel Craft, 62, of Kendallville died Saturday, March 14, 2009, at his residence.

He was retired from the foundry, a U.S. Navy Vietnam War veteran, a member of the First Baptist Church in Kendallville, and a devoted family man.

On Sept. 2, 1946, he was born in Hindman, Ky., to Ora and Mary (Tharp) Craft.

Surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Steve Craft, Albion, and Rob and Kelly Craft and Herb and Jill Craft, all of Kendallville; nine grandchildren; a great-grandson; five brothers and four sisters-in-law, Larry and Deb Craft of Kentucky, Charles and Deb Craft, Knox, Ind., Don and Sally Craft and Chester and Edith Craft, all of Kendallville, and Verlie Craft of Virginia; three sisters and son-in-law, Golden and Don Wright of Virginia, Juanita Combs of Kentucky, and Eileen Johnson, Knox, Ind.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Tina, on Nov. 26, 2008, a brother, Virgil Craft, and a sister, Amy Robinson.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Hite Funeral Home, Kendallville, with Pastor Percy Young officiating. Burial will be in Orange Cemetery, Rome City.

Calling will be from 5-7 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the First Baptist Church.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Ruth Berryhill

AVILLA — Ruth Elaine (DePew) Weirich Berryhill, 84, of Avilla died Saturday, March 14, 2009, at 9:45 p.m. in her home following an extended illness.

Mrs. Berryhill

Mrs. Berryhill lived in Avilla since 2004, coming from Kendallville. She had worked at Firestone in Kendallville, Community State Bank in Avilla and along with her husband, Arnold, owned and operated A&H Specialties in Kendallville from 1976 to 1991. She was a member of Faith United Methodist Church in Kendallville and Gideon's International Auxiliary. She enjoyed gardening, playing bingo and singing.

She was born June 2, 1924, in DeKalb County, Ind., to Ralph Wilbur and B. Helen (Hawk) DePew. In 1946 she married Kenneth Weirich in Garrett. He preceded her in death in 1961. In 1971 she married Arnold Berryhill in Kendallville. He survives in Avilla.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Dan and Sue Weirich, Huntertown; two stepdaughters and their spouses, Brenda and Phil DeRosia, Ormand Beach, Fla., and Linda Sue and Bill Milhollin, Angola; three grandchildren and their spouses, Josh and Katie Weirich, Melissa and Steve Zabel, and Matt and Kristin Weirich; four stepgrandchildren, Chris Forbes, Eric Forbes, Jeromie Henderson and Jessica Henderson; a great-grandson, Brandt Weirich; five stepgreat-grandchildren, Alysia Forbes, Cody Forbes, Shelby Forbes, Steven Herendeen and Cameron Phillips; and a sister, Phyllis Balzer, Kendallville.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Marybell Fee, and a brother, David DePew.

Funeral services will be Wednesday, March 18, 2009, at 11 a.m. at Faith United Methodist Church in Kendallville, with calling an hour prior to the services. Rev. Leon Pomeroy will be officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery, Corunna.

Honorary casketbearers will be Tom Balzer and Don Fee. Active casketbearers will be Josh Weirich, Melissa Zabel, Matt Weirich, Randy Fee, Craig Balzer and Jeromie Henderson.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2009, at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville.

Memorials are to the Faith United Methodist Church, Gideon's International or Parkview Noble Home Health & Hospice.

View a video tribute or send condolences online to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Doris Horton

KENDALLVILLE — Doris Horton, age 82, died Monday, March 16, 2009, at 4:50 a.m. at her home in Kendallville.

She was born March 28, 1926, in Hardshell, Kentucky, to Marion and Allie (nee Clemons) Campbell. They are deceased.

She moved to Indiana 35 years ago from Chicago.

Mrs. Horton was a homemaker.

She played cards, loved to plant flowers and cook. She also loved listening to music and telling stories.

On June 28, 1968, she married George E. Horton in Chicago. He survives in Kendallville.

Other survivors include her children, Joseph Robert (Sylvania) Gentry of Braid, Illinois, Sandra Gentry-Fugate of Kendallville, and Lora Lee (Brett) Gearhart of Butler; eight grandchildren, Bobby Joe Gentry, Shelby Mueller, Richard Thuren Gentry, Serena Carrier, Connie Lee Monzena, Taylor Kristine Gearhart, Whitney Marie Gearhart and Lexi Renee Gearhart; nine great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; three brothers, Marion Campbell Jr. of Albion, Orville Campbell of Kentucky and John Campbell of Wisconsin; four sisters, Nora Baugard of North Carolina, Cora Glaman of Wyoming, Vina Campbell of Kentucky and Stella Thomas of Illinois.

She is preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Lora Fugate and Doshie Campbell; and brothers, Chester Campbell and Arnold Campbell.

Funeral services for Mrs. Horton will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at Brazzell Funeral Home, Avilla Chapel. Pastor Ernie Miller will officiate.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 on Wednesday and one hour before services at the funeral home.

Burial will be at Rehoboth Cemetery in Albion.

Ruth Berryhill

AVILLA — Ruth Elaine (DePew) Weirich Berryhill, 84, of Avilla died Saturday, March 14, 2009, at 9:45 p.m. in her home following an extended illness.

Mrs. Berryhill

Mrs. Berryhill lived in Avilla since 2004, coming from Kendallville. She had worked at Firestone in Kendallville, Community State Bank in Avilla and along with her husband, Arnold, owned and operated A&H Specialties in Kendallville from 1976 to 1991. She was a member of Faith United Methodist Church in Kendallville and Gideon's International Auxiliary. She enjoyed gardening, playing piano and singing.

She was born June 2, 1924, in DeKalb County, Ind., to Ralph Wilbur and B. Helen (Hawk) DePew. In 1946 she married Kenneth Weirich in Garrett. He preceded her in death in 1961. In 1971 she married Arnold Berryhill in Kendallville. He survives in Avilla.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Dan and Sue Weirich, Huntertown; two stepdaughters and their spouses, Brenda and Phil DeRosia, Ormand Beach, Fla., and Linda Sue and Bill Milhollin, Angola; three grandchildren and their spouses, Josh and Katie Weirich, Melissa and Steve Zabel, and Matt and Kristin Weirich; four stepgrandchildren, Chris Forbes, Eric Forbes, Jeromie Henderson and Jessica Henderson; a great-grandson, Brandt Weirich; five stepgreat-grandchildren, Alysia Forbes, Cody Forbes, Shelby Forbes, Steven Herendeen and Cameron Phillips; and a sister, Phyllis Balzer, Kendallville.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Marybell Fee, and a brother, David DePew.

Funeral services will be Wednesday, March 18, 2009, at 11 a.m. at Faith United Methodist Church in Kendallville, with calling an hour prior to the services. Rev. Leon Pomeroy will be officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery, Corunna.

Honorary casketbearers will be Tom Balzer and Don Fee. Active casketbearers will be Josh Weirich, Melissa Zabel, Matt Weirich, Randy Fee, Craig Balzer and Jeromie Henderson.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today, Tuesday, March 17, 2009, at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville.

Memorials are to the Faith United Methodist Church, Gideon's International or Parkview Noble Home Health & Hospice.

View a video tribute or send condolences online to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR
March 20 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Billy Perkins

SPENCERVILLE — Billy Ray Perkins, 64, of Spencerville died Wednesday, March 18, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne. He had been ill the past nine years.

Mr. Perkins had been employed by International Harvester for 19 years and had retired in 2006 after working at General Motors for 21 years.

Born in New Haven, he was the son of Ray and Violet Perkins.

Mr. Perkins

Surviving are his wife of 44 years, Pamela; his children, Michael (Valerie) Perkins and Penny (Morgan) Beliles, both of Spencerville; six grandchildren; and his siblings, Carol Abel of Columbia City, Sharon Van Zant of Fort Wayne, George Perkins of Harlan, Peggy Bandelier of Logansport, and Robert Perkins of Harlan.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Rosalie Perkins.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 14717 Amstutz Road, Leo, with Pastors Steve Schlatter and Nathan Hyde officiating. Burial will be in Bowers Cemetery at Fort Wayne.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today at E. Harper & Son Funeral Home, 740 S.R. 930 East, New Haven, and one hour prior to services Saturday at the church.

Memorials are to Riley Children's Hospital, the American Cancer Society or the American Heart Association.

Linda Chambers

BUTLER — Linda S. Chambers, 54, of Butler died Thursday, March 19, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, Auburn.

Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, is in charge of arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
March 22 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Tough exterior hid big heart

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

HAMILTON — Dean Harger may have been a hard man for many to get to know, but behind the gruff exterior of the longtime owner of Harger's Meats was a man who loved his family, his church and his community.

Harger, 79, died March 2 after a number of long illnesses.

"Dean was my best friend," his wife, Donna, said. "I felt like he was a really smart business person, and everyone respected his opinion."

Donna said her husband was particularly proud of his children's time in Hamilton Community Schools.

"He was a big backer of Hamilton schools. He always supported the administration, which doesn't always happen in a small town. Whenever there would be a need for anything, like a fundraiser, he would always donate his time."

Daughter Suzie Tyler agreed.

"I think he was very proud that all of his children attended Hamilton schools," Suzie said, "and seeing his children be successful in different fields, business, education and medicine. He taught us a strong work ethic."

"And now the grandchildren have that," Donna interjected. "Whenever one of the kids would say they wanted a car, he'd always say, 'How many hours do you want?'"

"We all took our turns," son Jim Harger said.

While all the children worked at the butcher shop at one point or another, there really was never any pressure to make that a career choice, said Jeff Harger, who took over the business after his father retired.

"If you found something else you wanted to do, no problem, so long as you worked," he said.

Donna said it was also extrememly important for her husband that his family be involved in church activities, even if he wasn't for a long time.

"He never was able to attend church until after he retired," daughter Anita Jo Harger explained.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Dean Harger, his family said, was a hard-working man who loved his family, his church and his business. Here, he's shown with his wife, Donna, and their nine great-grandchildren.

"He had to open the shop."

Still, Sundays were special.

"That was the only day we could have breakfast together," Tyler said. "We always had dinner together. But on Sundays, he would always holler at us to get dressed and come down for breakfast, so we'd always be dressed and ready for church."

Harger eased his way into retirement, Jeff said, as he and Donna spent a little more time each year at their winter house in Florida.

"After retiring, he did a lot of fishing, golf and woodworking," Donna said.

That last hobby produced a lot of furniture and some rocking-horses for their great-grandchildren. It also produced an ironic accident, Jo said.

"He never cut himself in all those years of butchering, but when he started woodworking he cut his finger off, working on a manger scene," she explained.

Harger always had family around. The family property outside Hamilton is the home of several children, and was the scene of thousands of memories during the summers around a private lake, referred to by some as "Hamburger Lake," built on the property.

The Harger "city cousins," coming from places like Dayton, Ohio, or Cleveland, would visit during the summer to get taste of life in the country.

"They still enjoy it today and bring their kids," Donna said.

While Harger worked hard at the butcher shop, he always made time to see his children's sporting events.

"We worked hard, but if there was a sporting event, we were there," Donna said.

She and Dean would eat sweet cherries on the way to events, she said, "I'm surprised there's not a row of cherry trees from here to Hicksville."

"We just all know what a great person he was," Tyler said. "The outpouring of friends just reaffirmed that for us. It made you realize how other people feel that way, too."

THE EVENING STAR
March 22 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Boyd Moore

WATERLOO — Boyd Daniel Moore, 74, of Waterloo died Saturday, March 21, 2009, at his home with his family by his side.

Mr. Moore was born June 6, 1934, in Jackson, Ky., to the late Ova and Allie (Minton) Moore.

Mr. Moore

He worked as a police officer for the Jackson, Ky., police force from 1964 to 1975. He then worked for Bostwick-Braun in Ashley until his retirement on Dec. 31, 1997. He was a member of Love Divine Baptist Church in Ashley and a U.S. Army Veteran.

He married Virginia Morris on Dec. 31, 1966, in Jackson, Ky., and she survives.

Also surviving are two sisters and a brother-in-law, Lula and Lester Bellamy of Trenton, Ohio, and Marsha Moore of Peru, Ind.; two brothers, Robert A. Moore of Peru and Jesse C. Moore of Charleston, W. Va.; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, George Moore, and a sister, Lois Childers.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at Breathitt Funeral Home in Jackson, Ky. Pastors Carl Richie, Willie Collins and Carl McIntosh will officiate. Burial will be in Jackson Cemetery in Jackson, Ky.

Calling will be Monday from 4 to 9 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo and Wednesday at Breathitt Funeral Home in Jackson, Ky.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

Mildred Herrick

BUTLER — Mildred M. Herrick, 97, died Saturday, March 21, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at H. E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Mike Halferty officiating.

Calling will be Monday from 3-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

THE EVENING STAR
March 23 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Mildred Herrick

BUTLER — Mildred M. Herrick, 97, died Saturday, March 22, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, Auburn.

She was a homemaker and former owner of the Coffee Shop in Butler.

Mrs. Herrick was born on Nov. 23, 1911, in Butler to William and Edna (Bunce) Easterday. She married Ford H. Herrick on Sept. 23, 1936, in Auburn. He preceded her in death on June 21, 1971.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Ronald and Gay Herrick, Butler; a daughter, Patricia Gumbert, New Haven; 11 grandchildren; and 26 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Donald Herrick and Robert Brickel; two brothers, Cal and Willard Easterday; and two sisters, Thelma Taylor and Golda South.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Mike Halferty officiating. Burial will be at Riverside Cemetery, St. Joe.

Calling will be today from 3-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the donor's choice or Youth for Christ.

Gloria Komanec

SPENCERVILLE — Gloria L. Komanec, 84, died Sunday at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She was born on July 28, 1924, in Newville Township, DeKalb County, to the late John Henry and Mildred F. (Palmer) Kling. She married James Edward Komanec on May 27, 1950, in Hicksville, Ohio. He preceded her in death on August 6, 2001.

Mrs. Komanec

Surviving are a son, Dale E. Komanec of Spencerville, Ind.; two daughters, Janette (Michael) Blomeke of Ashley, Ind., ahd Cynthia (Randy) Sweet of Hicksville, Ohio; 11 grandchildren, Benjamin (Jennifer) Blomeke, Christine Blomeke, Phillip Blomeke, Rachel Komanec, Alexander Blomeke, Sarah Komanec, Charles Blomeke, Austin Sweet, Adrienne Sweet, Douglas Blomeke and Aimee Sweet; 2 great-grandchildren, Katherine & Andrew Blomeke.

She was also preceded in death by a sister, Lilian E. Means-Dever on August 20, 1999.

Gloria graduated from Spencerville High School. She worked as an assembl er for General Electric in Fort Wayne; as a key punch operator for U.S. Navy and the U.S. Department of the Navy and also General Telephone in Fort Wayne; and as a stock transfer clerk for Indiana Bank & Trust Company in Fort Wayne.

She was a WWII Navy WAVE veteran and a 36-year member of the American Legion Post 409 in Leo, Indiana.

Calling will be held today, Tuesday, March 24, 2009, from 4-8 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville, Ind.

Services will be held on Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the funeral home with Rev. David Carkenord officiating. Burial in Scipio Cemetery with military honors.

Memorials are to the Parkview Heart Institute, Attn: Parkview Foundation - 2200 Randallia Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46805.

Frank Leto Jr.

ANGOLA — Frank Robert Leto Jr., 65, of Angola died Sunday, March 22, 2009, at Cameron Hospital in Angola.

Mr. Leto was born Dec. 16, 1943, in Chicago to Frank P. and Angelina (Millazzo) Leto.

Surviving are two brothers and a sister-in-law, Richard and Pam Leto of Angola and Joseph Leto of Inverness, Fla.; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Carol and Ed Norris and Marie Biley, all of Inverness; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Services will be 4 p.m. Wednesday at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, 108 S. West St., Angola. Calling will be from 1-4 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Burial will be at 2 p.m. (Indiana time) Friday at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside, Ill.

Online condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Marsha Stewart

FREMONT — Marsha Stewart, 55, of Fort Wayne died Thursday, March 19, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She had worked at Tuttle's Jewelry, IZOD, Aileens and most recently at Toy Liquidators in Fremont.

Surviving are her husband, David; daughters, Stephanie (Matthew) Kline of Cadillac, Mich., Stacie (Michelle) Lancaster of Fort Wayne; Shannon Lancaster of Fort Wayne; Shannel (Scott) Nusbaum of Garrett and Shawna at home; a son, Seth, at home; a stepson, Matthew (Amy) Stewart of Fort Wayne; nine grandchildren; and three brothers, Joseph (Ginny) Crone of Hartford City, Darrell (Kathy) Crose Sr. of Fort Wayne and Richard Crone of Angola.

Memorial service is at 2 p.m. today at Fairview Missionary Church in Angola with Pastor Norm Fuller officiating.

Calling will be from 1-2 p.m. today at the church.

Memorials are to the Shriner's Hospitals for Children.

Midwest Cremation Society and Memorial Chapel in Fort Wayne is in charge of arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
March 27 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Raoul O'Dell

AVILLA — Raoul Lucien O'Dell, 66, of Springfield, Ohio, and formerly of Fort Wayne died Wednesday, March 25, 2009, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mr. O'Dell worked for International Harvester in Fort Wayne and also in Springfield, where he later retired.

He was born Sept. 11, 1942, in Bizerte, Tunisia, to James C. and Josie (Albacete) O'Dell. His father preceded him in death and his mother survives in Avilla.

Also surviving are his wife, Connie O'Dell of Springfield, Ohio; a daughter, Stephanie O'Dell of Minneapolis, Minn.; a brother, Grover O'Dell of Auburn; a sister and brother-in-law, Elizabeth and Robert Blotkamp of Auburn; and several nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, John O'Dell, and a sister, Nicole York.

A memorial service will be at 5 p.m. Sunday at Provena Sacred Heart Home, 515 N. Main St., Avilla.

Memorials may be directed to the American Heart Association.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Nannie Mcpherson

LAGRANGE — Nannie Mcpherson, 56, of LaGrange died at 5 a.m. Thursday, March 26, 2009, in her residence following a year-long battle with cancer.

Mrs. Mcpherson

Mrs. Mcpherson had moved to the area at age 4, coming from Kentucky.

She was a homemaker, and attended World Harvest Family Worship Center in Garrett.

She was born March 25, 1953, in West Liberty, Ky., to Adolph and Nora (Bolen) Collins. On March 15, 1997, in Kendallville she married Andrew Mcpherson. He survives in LaGrange.

Also surviving are three daughters and two sons-in-law, Teresa and Gary Hunter of Kendallville, Terry Brown of LaGrange and Tammy and Jose Santacruz of Avilla; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Stacy Shirk of Garrett and Scot and Heather Shirk of Garrett; three stepdaughters, Twana Maurer of Waterloo, Amanda Mcpherson of Woodburn and Shana Mcpherson of Auburn; a stepson, Adam Mcpherson of Garrett; 21 grandchildren; five sisters and three brothers-in-law, Mary Bolen of LaGrange, her twin Annie and Don Kessler of North Manchester, Betty and Dave VanHoozer of Wolcottville, Helen and Jack Chriswell of Waterloo and Josephine Bailey of Montgomery, Mich.; and two brothers and a sister-in-law, Roy and Bonnie Collins of Kendallville and Ray Collins of Albion.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Irene Belcher and Geraldine Collins; a brother, Sonny Collins; a stepson, Wayne Mcpherson and a grandson, Lucas Brown.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday in the Harbor of Love Church at Kendallville with Pastor Charles Mosley and Pastor Willie Collins officiating. Burial will be in Orange Cemetery near Rome City.

Calling will be after 4 p.m. Sunday at the church, where there will be an evening service at 6 p.m.

The family will have private services on Saturday in Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, with Pastor Yvonne Brown of World Harvest Family Worship Center in Garrett officiating.

View a video tribute or send condolences to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Ben Amerman

KENDALLVILLE — Ben Amerman, 82, of Kendallville died on Thursday, March 26, 2009.

He was born in Elkhart, Indiana, on August 9, 1926, to Chester and Opal (McFadden) Amerman.

Mr. Amerman

He graduated from Rome City High School in 1944.

He married Martha J. (Mulholland) Amerman on April 5, 1946, in Albion and she passed away on May 25, 2000.

Mr. Amerman owned and operated the Sinclair/ARCO service station at the corner Main and Diamond streets in Kendallville. He also owned the Amerman's Car Museum and Antiques.

He was a member of the Kendallville Moose 1301, the Sons of the American Legion and the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Club.

Survivors include three daughters; Sharon Fogel of Warren, Michigan, Marilyn and Larry Danner of Kendallville and Barbara Amerman of Fremont; four grandchildren, Michelle Kedzior, Kelli and Scott Hayes, Ben Mobley, and Archie and Rabecca Mobley; and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Martha Amerman; one son, Larry Amerman; and one brother, Gerald Amerman.

Visitation will be Saturday, April 4, 2009, from noon to 4 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Burial will be at Woodruff Cemetery in Wolcottville, Indiana, at a later date.

Preferred memorials may be made to the ACD Club.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Audra Hawkins

ANDERSON — Audra Marie Alen Hawkins, 1, died Thursday, March 26, 2009, at St. Vincent's Hospital in Indianapolis.

She was born Aug. 20, 2007, in Indianapolis.

Her mother, Heather Hawkins, survives in Anderson.

She is also survived by grandparents, Gregg and Elane Scott of Butler and Mike and Tracey Hawkins of Butler; great-grandparents, Patricia Fuentes of Kendallville, Charles and Susan Scott of Kannapolis, N.C., Larry and Kathy Dove of Butler, Louise Mansfield of Lake Placid, Fla., and Glen Hawkins of Sonora, Ky.; her godparents, Rodney and Debbie Murphy of Anderson; seven aunts; four uncles; and many cousins.

Memorial services will be at 3 pm. Sunday at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo with the Rev. Kevin Marsh officiating.

Calling will be two hours prior to the service.

Memorials are to the family.

Woman's legacy will light the holidays

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

WOLCOTTVILLE — "She'll be looking down from heaven each Christmas to see the Christmas lighting display," said Walt Guenin.

His late wife Sharon Guenin looked forward to the Christmas holiday every year because that was when the Guenins turned on their outdoor display of thousands of colorful twinkling lights at their home that attracted onlookers from the tri-state area.

In November last year she carefully supervised the set-up of their huge collection of lighted Christmas displays she and her husband Walt donated to the Mid-America Windmill Museum at 732 S. Allen Chapel Road, just east of Kendallville.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The late Sharon Guenin sits in her rural Wolcottville home with her great-grandchild, Jazen Scott Miller, in her lap.

It was the last Christmas season she would see the display she lovingly assembled with her husband. Sharon Guenin, 67, passed away on Feb. 27.

"She was a wonderful lady," said Pam Younce, a long-time member of the museum's board of directors. "For her and Walt to donate that display to the museum was just overwhelming."

Younce got to know the Guenins personally and spent two days a week visiting with them until Sharon passed away. "She wanted to make people happy. That's why she liked Christmas so much."

Younce remembers Sharon Guenin supervising the set up one day. "Walt and the volunteers had put up a horse and carriage display and thought they had arranged properly. Sharon told them they had it backwards and they changed it around."

The Guenins' collection—which they added to every year for 30 years—included more than 150 lighted plastic figures and more than 50 lighted frame displays. Some of them, such as the teeter-totter and Silent Night chapel, were specially made for the Guenins. Sharon Guenin's favorite displays were the nativity scenes, according to her husband.

It was his wife's idea to donate the Christmas displays to the museum when they decided they were getting too old to put them up every year. "We had visited the museum and got to know one of the volunteers, Betty Lange. She told us about the museum's winter festival and Sharon said we should give the displays to the museum," said Walt.

Younce said she was glad Sharon got to see the display as part of the museum's illuminated winter wonderland before she died. "When we put up the lights and displays each Christmas, we'll be thinking about Sharon."

Guenin was a homemaker who spent a lot of time and loved Atwood Shores Lake Campground in Wolcottville. Her husband works part-time there. "I promised her I wouldn't sit around. I'd keep busy and work at the campground," he said.

Her son Mark Guenin of Kendallville remembers how close the kids in campground were to his mother. "She was like a second mother to many kids at the campground, and influenced them a lot," he said.

Mrs. Guenin was born June 14, 1941, in Fort Wayne to Burl and Ruth (Taylor) Price. On July 2, 1960, she married Walter E. Guenin Jr. at First Christian Church in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Guenin is survived by two sons, Marc Edward and Theresa Guenin, Wolcottville, and Kevin Scott Guenin and his fiancee Linda Tepe, Wolcottville; grandson Corbin Scott Guenin; and great-grandchild Jazen Scott Miller.

Neil Pepple

MANNING, S.C. — Neil Emile Pepple, 34, of Manning, S.C., formerly of Garrett, died March 27, 2009.

A gathering of family and friends will be held Friday, April 3 from 4-7 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett.

THE EVENING STAR
March 30 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Mary Hootman

BUTLER — Mary A. Hootman, 90, formerly of Hicksville, Ohio, died Sunday, March 29, 2009, at The Laurels of DeKalb, Butler.

Services will be at 8 p.m. Wednesday at Smith & Brown Funeral Home, Hicksville, Ohio.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to American Legion Post 223 in Hicksville, Ohio, or The Laurels of DeKalb, Butler.

To sign the guestbook or send condolences online, go to www.smithbrownfuneralhome.com.

Father E. Brian Carsten

AUBURN — Father E. Brian "Skip" Carsten, 65, of Auburn died Friday, March 27, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Father Carsten served as a Metropolitan Bishop at the Crossword Centre in Auburn and was the chaplain of Cameron Memorial Hospital.

He had been a chaplain at Cameron Hospice and Home Health and a former chaplain of the Steuben County and Allen County Sheriff's Departments.

Father Carsten was affiliated with Crosswood Centre in Auburn and a member of the Orthodox Catholic Church of America.

He had a Master of Divinity degree.

He was born Jan. 31, 1944, in Gary to Earl J. and Isabelle (Warwick) Carsten. His mother survives in Auburn. His father preceded him in death April 1, 2008.

Services will be at 4 p.m. Friday at Fairview Missionary Church in Angola with Most Rev. Alfred L. Lankenau, Metropolitan Archbishop Emeritus, Orthodox Catholic Church of America, officiating. Calling will be from 1-4 p.m. Friday at the church.

Memorials are to Crosswood Centre or to the donor's choice.

Weicht Funeral Home in Angola is in charge of arrangements.

Richard Murley

GARRETT — Richard "Dick" O. Murley, 90, of Garrett died at 11:15 a.m. Monday, March 30, 2009, at Miller's Merry Manor, Garrett.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett, with burial in Cedar Creek Cemetery, Garrett.

Memorials are to Boy Scout Troop 178 or the First Church of Christ, Garrett.

Condolences may be sent or sign the guestbook at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Father E. Brian Carsten

AUBURN — Metropolitan Archbishop of the Orthodox Catholic Church in America, E. Paul Brian Carsten, 65, crossed into the arms of God on Friday, March 27, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was currently serving as Chaplain at Cameron Hospital, Cameron Hospice and Home Health Care and Fire Arson Specialized Team of Allen County.

He previously served as Chaplain of the Steuben County and Allen County Sheriff's Departments, the Fort Wayne Police Department and the Fort Wayne Fire Department. Father Carsten was also serving at Crossword Centre in Auburn, and had a Master of Divinity degree.

He was born Jan. 31, 1944, in Gary, Indiana, to Earl J. and Isabelle (Warwick) Carsten. His mother survives him in Auburn. His father preceded him in death April 1, 2008.

Services will be at 4 p.m. Friday at Fairview Missionary Church in Angola with the Most Rev. Alfred L. Lankenau, Metropolitan Archbishop Emeritus, Orthodox Catholic Church in America, officiating. Calling will be from 1-4 p.m. Friday at the church.

Memorials are to Crosswood Centre or to the donor's choice.

In Father Carsten's words:

"The Archbishop Emeritus of the Orthodox Catholic Church of America died for the last time in this world. He died much later than he had thought he would, though certainly on schedule in God's awareness. Carsten was born in Gary, Indiana, on January 31, 1944, to Earl and Isabelle Carsten. He was baptized on July 31, 1944, in Shelby, Indiana, beginning a lifetime of dying and rising.

Archbishop Carsten leaves no biological offspring, the result of a stubborn, if faithful, belief that he could contribute otherwise to humankind and that there is forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body and life in the world to come.

Not unlike the bishop pieces of a chessboard, Carsten rubbed shoulders with the high and mighty, but found his heart with the lowly ones, the little people some would dare call pawns, where he most clearly might gaze on the face of the beloved.

Left behind for now is a gaggle of ragtag folks who have been brothering and sistering for a lifetime, all connected to one another in a bloodline that would confound any geneticist worth his or her sodium. At least some members of this faith family will gather with those close to Carsten, especially.

After a fitting celebration of Brother Jesus' death and resurrection, doing at table what he asks us to do, Carsten's cremains will be placed near the Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene. Shed a tear if you must. Carsten shed many a tear gazing at the gap between those on this and those on the other side while tasting the hope that such a gap is but an illusion. Blessed be our Triune God now and forever."

Goldie Zerkle-Smith

AUBURN — Goldie V. Zerkle-Smith, 99, formerly of Waterloo, died Monday, March 30, 2009, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

She was a homemaker and also worked in area restaurants a good part of her life.

Mrs. Zerkle-Smith was a member of Waterloo Eastern Star, Mothers of World War II and Cedar Lake Church of Christ.

Mrs. Zerkle-Smith

She was born Dec. 7, 1909, in Monroeville to Allen and Jennie (Frame) Zell.

She married Ora Zerkle on Nov. 1, 1930, and he died Sept. 24, 1979. She then married Virgil F. Smith on Jan. 2, 1988, in Cedar Lake Church of Christ and he died Jan. 20, 1998.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law-, Delbert and Leona Zerkle of Cortland, N.Y., and Dwight and Lina Zerkle of Waterloo; a daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Ted Slone of Waterloo; a brother, Raymond Zell of Fort Wayne; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo. Brian Wilcox will officiate. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be from 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home and one hour prior to the service Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Hospice or the DeKalb County Heart Association.

Maxine Bond

FORT WAYNE — Maxine M. Bond, 79, of Fort Wayne died Monday, March 30, 2009, at the Regency Place in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Bond was a telephone operator for Indiana Bell in Auburn and then retired from GTE in Fort Wayne.

She was a 1947 graduate of Auburn High School.

She was born Aug. 27, 1929, in Fort Wayne to Harold L. and Hazel (Woolever) Vallieu. They preceded her in death.

She is survived by a daughter, Leesa Marie Bond of The Villages, Florida; three sisters and a brother-in-law, Norma Allen of Rock Hill, S.C., Betty and Herb Kleeman of Garrett, and Ann Marie Brown of Butler; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Jeffrey Horn officiating.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

Ella Tyler

AUBURN — Ella Mae Tyler, 82, of Auburn died Monday, March 30, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Tyler was the past state auxiliary commander of the Indiana DAV.

She was member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary and Mothers of World War II.

She was born July 12, 1926 in Mongo.

Mrs. Tyler

Surviving are a son, Everett (Linda) Liggett of Auburn; a daughter, Darlene (Bob) Thomas of Churubusco; a brother, Harold (Florence) Ransbottom Jr. of Bronson, Mich.; a sister, Alberta Sprague of Auburn; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Everett Liggett, John Treace and Virgil Tyler; a daughter, Kelly M. Treace; and three brothers.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Covington Memorial Funeral Home, 8408 Covington Road, Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home and one hour prior to services on Friday.

Memorials are to the donor's choice.

Richard Murley

GARRETT — Richard O. "Dick" Murley, 90, of Garrett died at 11:15 a.m. Monday, March 30, 2009, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Mr. Murley was an engineer on the B&O Railroad for 38 years, retiring in 1977.

He was a member of the First Church of Christ in Garrett and the Garrett Eagles, Garrett Historical Society and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Fireman and Engineers.

Mr. Murley was born Nov. 8, 1918, in Garrett to Owen A. and Harriett A. (Myers) Murley. He married Marvene M. Lewis on Oct. 13, 1940, in Garrett. She survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are sons and daughters in-law, Richard L. "Dick" L. and Mary Ann Murley of Garrett and Bill and Patricia Murley of Laingsburg, Mich.; six grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, David Murley; and two sisters, Marceille E. Higgins and Evelyn Tydings.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery at Garrett.

Calling will be from 2-5 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Boy Scout Troop 178 or the First Church of Christ in Garrett.

Send condolences or sign the online register book at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Sandra Slone

AUBURN — Sandra Lynn "Sandy" Slone, 43, of Auburn died Monday, March 30, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Slone was born in Mansfield, Ohio, on Aug. 3, 1965, to Paschal and Hester (Slone) Reynolds.

She married Ellis Slone on Aug, 26, 1978, in Clintwood, Va. He survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two sons, Nick and Teca Slone of Auburn and Robert and Melissa Slone of Auburn; two daughters, April Slone of Auburn and Jessica and Adam Schuller of Butler; eight grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Nick Reynolds in 1977.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Harbor Of Love Baptist Church in Kendallville. The Rev. Charles Mosley and the Rev. Willie Collins will officiate. Burial will be at Corunna Cemetery in Corunna.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Thursday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Memorials may be made to the family in lieu of flowers.

View a video tribute by Thursday or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Kathleen Hull

LONG BEACH LAKE — Kathleen M. Hull, 81, of Long Beach Lake near Fremont died at 7:15 a.m. Wednesday, April 1, 2009, in Garrett.

She was a proofreader for R.H. Donnley and had been a tool crib attendant and president of the United Steel Workers Union at Clevite Corp. in Angola, retiring in 1996.

She was born May 4, 1927, in Pittsburgh, Pa., to Charles and Edna Sand. She married Samuel Hull Sr. He preceded her in death.

Surviving are three daughters, Kathleen Raske of Angola, Edna Hall of Garrett and Patricia Kitchen of Pittsburgh, Pa.; two sons, Samuel F. Hull Jr. of Fremont and Howard C. McHale of Auburn; a sister, LaVerne Tiani of Round Lake, Ill.; 19 grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Junior Sand; and a sister, Rita James.

Services will be at noon Saturday at Thomas Funeral Home at Garrett with Pastor Susan Socha officiating. Burial will be in Jamestown Cemetery at Fremont.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Parkview Hospice.

Send a condolence or sign the online register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Kathleen Barry

AUBURN — Kathleen Barry, 59, of Auburn died Monday, March 30, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

There will be no calling or services.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

The Northeast Indiana Cremation Society was in charge of arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR

April 3 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Thomas Dembickie

GARRETT — Thomas A. "Dimmer" Dembickie, 63, of Garrett died at 1:45 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Dembickie was a lifetime Garrett resident.

He had been a foreman at Zollner Pistons in Fort Wayne for 35 years, retiring in 2003. Following his retirement, he worked at Parker's in Avilla.

Mr. Dembickie was a 1965 graduate of Garrett High School.

He was a member of the Garrett Eagles Lodge.

He was born Dec. 22, 1945, in Garrett to Frank and Lucille (Owen) Dembickie. He married Diana M. Beverly on Aug. 9, 1990, in Garrett. She survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are a son, William and Lori Beverly of Garrett; a sister, Judy and Lloyd Henderson of Orange Park, Fla.; and two grandchildren.

There will be no services or calling.

Memorials are to DeKalb Hospice or the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett is in charge of arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR

April 4 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Ellen Gamble

CORUNNA — Ellen Gamble, 86, of Corunna died Thursday, April 2, 2009, at 5:45 p.m. in Kendallville.

Mrs. Gamble moved to this area from Kentucky in 1953.

Mrs. Gamble

She was a homemaker.

She was born Oct. 6, 1922. in Knott County, Ky., to Clifton and Ruthie (Short) Mosley. She was married to Loss Gamble. He preceded her in death in 1999.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Harry "Pinky" Gamble Sr. and Diane Gamble of Wolcottville and Roger Gamble Sr. of Corunna; 11 grandchildren; and 27 great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by a grandchild; two great-grandchildren; a brother; and seven sisters.

Funeral services will be at noon Monday in Harbor of Love Church at Kendallville with Pastor Charles Mosley, Pastor Phillip Lucas, and Pastor Birtchel Mosley officiating. Burial will be in Woodruff Cemetery.

Calling will be after 4 p.m. Sunday at the church. Evening services will be at 7.

Arrangements are by Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville.

View a video tribute or send condolences online to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR

April 2009 Auburn, Indiana

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Mentor, friend empowered women

BY JENNY KOBIELA-MONDOR
jennyk@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — The touch of one talented woman improved more than one organization in DeKalb County.

Dorothy Marley, who died Jan. 23 at the age of 68, led many community groups, including the DeKalb County Extension Office, Auburn Chamber of Commerce, Auburn First United Methodist Church Mission Commission and the church's United Methodist Women group.

Then, Marley helped ensure that those who followed in her footsteps were empowered to do their jobs.

"I think developing leadership in others was one of her strong points," said Jamie Sukala, director of the Purdue Extension Office in DeKalb County. Marley worked as an Extension agent in DeKalb County and served as director for approximately five years, Sukala said.

"To me, she was a great mentor. She was a great friend and role model for me," Sukala said.

"She took over the presidency at a time when we couldn't find leadership," said Sue Shankle, a member of the United Methodist Women. "She really organized things and was very instrumental in getting new members and trying to begin making plans to get new members and get a membership organization together."

"She had a lot of ability to spur the committee on. She did a lot of behind-the-scenes things," said Bob Oswalt, who now chairs the Methodist church's Mission Commission. "She's very hard to follow up in a position. It's difficult to step into her shoes."

Mrs. Marley

"She set such a good example," said Wendy Oberlin, who served as vice president of the Chamber of Commerce when Marley was the president. "She always had the goals of the organization at the forefront."

"She wasn't somebody who was looking for the limelight," Sukala said. "She was looking for successful programs.

Much of Marley's success in leadership roles came from her intelligence, experience and organization skills.

"The ability she had to pull off a party or to do anything that we wanted to do, any type of activity we wanted to have, she knew how to bring that to fruition," said United Methodist Women president Angela Horton. "She knew everything, from textiles to homemaking to business practices to just doing so many facets of things. She knew how to make it happen."

"She was super-duper organized," Oswalt said. He added that Marley would write follow-up reports on all missions projects, and "she never saw a project she didn't think she could do."

Marley personally touched many of the people she worked with in the community.

"People didn't recognize the seeds she planted within people," Sukala said. "That's what she did in her work, and that's what she carried over into her personal things."

"She was a darling woman," Oberlin said. "She was just a wonderful person. She was always smiling, always happy and always had something positive to say."

According to Shankle, Marley was very close to Horton and felt like she was a second mother to her.

"She mentored me in many ways beside the United Methodist Women," Horton said. "She had a heart for empowering women. She empowered women to be self-sufficient, stand on their own two feet and be a complete woman. She was an advocate for women having high self-esteem and just being able to set goals to do."

THE EVENING STAR

April 5 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Seibert Ramsey

ASHLEY — Seibert H. Ramsey, 80, of Ashley, died Saturday, April 4, 2009, at home.

He was a superintendent for various construction companies, and for the past 15 years he had been the owner and operator for Premier Underground Construction.

He was a member of the Roles Chapel Baptist Church in Forest Hill, W.Va., and the Masonic Lodge of Ashley.

Mr. Ramsey was born Nov. 17, 1928, in Hinton, W.Va., to L. Hobert and Nannie B. (Pack) Ramsey. He married Marilyn Breon on Aug. 29, 1950, Irwin, Pa. She survives in Ashley.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Cynthia L. and Darrel Boyce, Ashley, and Rebecca L. and John Traster, South Milford; three sons and daughters-in-law, Randy C. and Julie Ramsey, Auburn, Tracy L. and Jayne Ramsey, Fort Wayne, and Dennis J. and Mary Ramsey, Pleasant Lake; a sister and brother-in-law, Ruth and Bill Thomas, Forest Hill, W. Va.; four brothers and sisters-in-law, Charles J. and Joyce Ramsey, Torch, Ohio, Richard E. and Penny Ramsey, Radford, Va., Edward L. and Ann Ramsey, Churubusco, and Ronald H. and Marion Ramsey, Columbus, Ohio; 15 grandchildren; four great grandchildren; three step grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, James M. Ramsey.

A memorial service will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Pleasant Chapel Church of the Brethren, 1993 C.R. 8, Ashley, with Valarie Kline officiating.

Calling will be from noon to 1 p.m. Monday at the church.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo, is in charge of arrangements.

Oscar Wells Jr.

WATERLOO — Oscar Ray Wells Jr., 78, died Sunday, April 5, 2009, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mr. Wells Jr.

Mr. Wells worked at the former Souder Hospital in Auburn. He retired in 1991 after 35 years at Garrett Flexible.

Following his retirement he ran his own gravel pit off of U.S. 6 in Corunna.

He was born April 1, 1931, in Garret to Oscar and Gladys (Curtland) Wells. He married Susan Kay (Strand) Johnson on Feb. 17, 1978, in Garrett and she survives.

Also surviving are four sons and daughters-in-law, Tony Wells and Cindy Brown of Auburn, Tim and Carol Wells of Auburn, Joe and Virgie Wells of Ashley and Rick Wells of Waterloo; two daughters and sons-in-law, Diana and Dan Elkins of Waterloo and Julie and Cliff Casebere of Waterloo; three stepsons and a stepdaughter-in-law, Jeff Johnson of Auburn, Wayne and Verna Johnson of Nashville, Tenn., and Scott Johnson of Auburn; 21 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Violet Muzzillo of Corunna and Clara and John Cox of Corunna; and his former wife, Joan Rempis of Waterloo.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Betty Lou Wells and Scharlotte Long.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo with the Rev. Ron Stambaugh officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett. Pallbearers will be his grandsons, Greg, Alec, Jason, Jake, Josh, Cody, Bryan and Tyler.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Riley Children's Hospital.

Margie Sweeney

FORT WAYNE — Margie C. Sweeney, 77, of Fort Wayne died at 9:55 a.m. Monday, April 6, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne following an extended illness.

Mrs. Sweeney served as curator/manager of the Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site in Rome City for 29 years.

Mrs. Sweeney

Mrs. Sweeney worked for the state for 32 years. She accepted the post of curator at the Gene Stratton-Porter site in 1973 and continued in the same job, by then called property manager, until she retired on Aug. 31, 2002. She also retired from the Salvation Army after several years of service.

Under Mrs. Sweeney's leadership, the carriage house on the property was restored and the bodies of Stratton-Porter and her daughter were moved to the site and entombed in a new crypt by what Sweeney said was the author's favorite tree.

Mrs. Sweeney also named the Miss Limberlost pageant.

A native of the Berne-Geneva area, she had previously worked at the Limberlost State Historic Site in Geneva.

She attended the Salvation Army Church.

She was born on Oct. 24, 1931, in Decatur, the daughter of Walter D. and Thelma B. (Branstetter) Tester.

Surviving are a son, Michael Sweeney of Fort Wayne; and two brothers, Bill Tester of Garrett and Jerry Tester of California.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Karen K. Tester.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 N. Washington St., Geneva, with Major Mark Turner officiating. Burial will be in West Lawn Cemetery in Geneva.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Salvation Army.

Condolences may be sent onlien to www.glancyfuneralhomes.com.

James Stemen

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — James L. Stemen, 62, of Colorado Springs died Thursday, April 3, 2009, at the Pikes Peak Hospice Residence.

Mr. Stemen had resided in Colorado Springs since 1985.

Mr. Stemen

He was a disabled American veteran. He served his country in the United States Army for more than 17 years and was a victim of Agent Orange. He was a member of the DAV, the VFW and the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Mr. Stemen was a graduate of East High School in Butler, Ind., and attended National College. He earned an associate degree in business and a Bachelor of Science degree.

He was born July 5, 1946, in Hicksville, Ohio, to Homer and Helen (Bry) Stemen. He married Elaine Sandra Mascarenas on May 5, 1973, in Colorado Springs. She survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, James J. and Tina Stemen of Colorado Springs; a daughter and son-in-law, Sandra Stemen-Krause and Henry Krause of Colorado Springs; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Karen and Brad Karris and Marge and Jim Myers; all of Fort Wayne, Ind.; and four grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Services will be held, with military honors, at 2 p.m. Thursday at the Shrine of Remembrance "America the Beautiful" Chapel.

Calling will be one hour prior to services.

Memorials are to the family.

Ada Louise Pankop

CHURUBUSCO — Ada Louise Pankop, 80, a resident of Churubusco, died at 12:50 a.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2009, at her home following an extended illness.

Mrs. Pankop

Mrs. Pankop was born in Auburn on September 25, 1928, a daughter of John Andrew and Mable Vianna (Shambaugh) Englert. She spent her formative years in DeKalb County and graduated from Auburn High School in 1945.

On June 23, 1946, she was married to Donald E. Pankop. He preceded her in death on January 12, 1955. She was later married to his brother Dale R. Pankop on January 28, 1956. He preceded her in death on August 8, 2008.

She was a homemaker for most of her life, and had also worked at the former Bang's Five and Dime Store in Churubusco for a period. She spent all of her adult life in Churubusco, and had been active as a Girl Scout leader, and was president of the Churubusco High School Band Boosters.

The surviving relatives include her children, Pam (Harold) Hill of Churubusco, Marsha (Warren) Worman of Wichita, Kan., Vi (William) Sommers of Fort Wayne, Bob Pankop of Churubusco, Becky Coffelt of Columbia City, and Judy (Matt) Burrel of Garrett; 17 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and two husbands, she was preceded in death by an infant brother, John Andrew Englert Jr; and by three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 11, at the Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco with Rev. Timothy Grable, pastor of Sugar Grove Church of God, officiating.

The family will receive friends at the mortuary on Friday from 2-4 and from 6-8 p. m., or one hour prior to the service.

Private family burial will be held in the Christian Chapel Cemetery, Merriam.

For those who wish, memorials may be directed to the Sugar Grove Church of God, 5019 East 500 South-57, Churubusco, IN 46723

To leave an online condolence for the family in Mrs. Pankop's memory, log on to www.sheetsandchilds.net.

Dora Clark

HUDSON — Dora E. Clark, 83, of Hudson, Ind., died Tuesday, April 7, 2009, at Select Specialty Hospital in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Mrs. Clark

Mrs. Clark had been a homemaker and resided in her Hudson home.

She was a member of the Salem Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Clark enjoyed playing cards.

She was born Feb. 3, 1926, in Steuben County, Ind., to Grover and Emily Albina (Butler) Cool. They are deceased.

She married Robert M. Clark on Oct. 20, 1946. He survives in Hudson, Ind.

Also surviving are her son and his constant companion, Michael Clark and Cathy Kramer, of Hudson, Ind.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Deborah and Douglas Moser of Auburn, Ind., and Mary and John Dutton of Hamilton, Ind.; a brother, James Cool of Wooster, Ohio; three grandchildren, Seth Kramer, Brandon Dutton and Dianna Moser; two stepgrandchildren, Brock Dutton and Kelle McNeil and her husband, Seth; and four stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by two brothers, John Cool and Robert Cool, and a sister, Roberta Hendricks.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 11, 2009, at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola. The Rev. William S. Hambright will officiate.

Burial will be in Block Cemetery in Steuben County, Ind.

Visitation will be from 10-11 a.m. Saturday prior to the service.

Memorials are to the Salem Fire Department and the Steuben County Council on Aging.

Deloris Ault

AUBURN — Deloris C. Ault, 90, died Wednesday, April 8, 2009, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Ault was a homemaker.

She had lived in the Butler and Auburn area all of her life.

Mrs. Ault was a member of the DeKalb County Home Demonstration Club.

She was born on July 18, 1918, in Butler to Clyde and Elsie (Oberholtzer) Ginder. She married Guy F. Ault on Aug. 14, 1939, in Kendallville. He preceded her in death on July 3, 1998.

Surviving are a son, Ronald L. Ault of Del Ray Beach, Fla.; a daughter and son-in-law, Marletta and Larry Rowe of Edgerton, Ohio; a granddaughter, Dawn M. Hopkins of Edgerton; two great-grandchildren Abby and Zaiden Hopkins of Edgerton; two stepgranddaughters, Julie (James) Caperton of Bryan, Ohio, and Cathy (David) Bowman of Montpelier, Ohio; six stepgreat-grandchildren, Natasha Wieland, Stephanie Wieland and Misha Caperton, all of Bryan, Ohio, and Alicia, Sabrina and David Bowman of Montpelier, Ohio; and several nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by a grandson, Scott M. Rowe in January of 2002.

Funeral services for Deloris C. Ault will be Tuesday, April 14, at 11 a.m. at H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Bill Farmer officiating.

Visitation will be Monday from 3-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Preferred memorials are to the donor's choice.

Condolences may be left at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Ronald Jacquay

AUBURN — Ronald L. Jacquay, 70, of Auburn and formerly of Clear Lake, died on Friday, April 10, 2009, at his home.

Mr. Jacquay had retired from Zollner Corp.

Mr. Jacquay

He was a U.S. Navy veteran of the Seabees.

Mr. Jacquay was a member of the DeKalb County Library Round Table.

He was born March 11, 1939, to Bernon and Agnes Jacquay. They are deceased.

Surviving are his wife of 47 years, Helene (Herber) Jacquay; three sons and daughters-in-law, Pierre L. and Anne Jacquay of Clear Lake, Ben and Tina Jacquay of Fort Wayne and Ted and Kelley Jacquay of New Albany; two sisters, Linda Glaze and Karen Mattingly; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Joe and Cathy Jacquay and Stan Jacquay; five grandchildren, William Fresch and his wife, Brenda, Dale Fresch, Angela Jacquay, Joey Jacquay and Kenna Jacquay; and one great-grandchild, Olivia Rose Fresch.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, John Jacquay.

Mr. Jacquay bequeathed his body to the University of Michigan Medical School's Anatomical Donation Program.

A memorial service will be held 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 18, 2009, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1122 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne.

Derek Everage

WATERLOO — Derek Eugene Everage, 28, of Waterloo died Wednesday, April 8, 2009.

Mr. Everage was a loving father, friend and son and will be greatly missed.

He was born June 15, 1980, in Princeton, W.Va., to Mitchell and Vicki (Jackson) Everage.

Surviving are his mother, Vicki Basham of Avon Park, Fla.; his grandmother, Carol Grove Harrell of Avon Park; his former wife, Heather Everage of Auburn; a daughter, Morgan Everage of Auburn; a brother and sister-in-law, Mitchell and Amanda Everage of Avon Park; a nephew, River Everage of Avon Park; an aunt and uncle, Cindy and John Watkins of Angola; and a cousin, Abby Miller of Angola.

He was preceded in death by his father, Mitchell Everage.

A casual celebration of life will be from 4-8 p.m. today, Saturday, April 11, 2009, at the Angola American Legion Post 31.

Memorials are to his daughter's education in care of Cindy Watkins, First Federal Savings Bank.

Weicht Funeral Home in Angola is in charge of arrangements.

Calling will be one-half hour prior to services.

Memorials may be made to YMCA Camp Potawatomi, the Steuben County Humane Society and the Down Syndrome Support Association of Southern Indiana.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Virginia Peters

AVILLA — Virginia L. Peters, 86, of Avilla and formerly of Garrett died Thursday April 9, 2009, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mrs. Peters

She worked for five years in the Garrett School cafeteria, then worked for 15 years as a lead lady at Mossberg Industries in Garrett before retiring in 1993.

She was a member of the Zion Lutheran Church in Garrett where she sang in the choir.

She was born May 5, 1922, in Garrett to William H. and Helen B. (Gingery) Kleeman. She married Lloyd E. Peters in September 1945 in Garrett and he died in December 1967.

She is survived by a daughter, Janis K. Peters of Garrett; and her twin sister, Violet L. Seigel of Garrett.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a son, James A. Peters who died in June of 1967; and a brother, Donald Kleeman.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn. Tom Novy will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Serving as pallbearers will be Jack Seigel, Tim Maloney, Wayne Peters, Robert Peters, Jeff Kleeman and Herb Kleeman.

Calling will be two hours prior to the service from noon to 2 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Provena Sacred Heart Home, Unit E.

THE EVENING STAR

April 12 2009 Auburn, Indiana

A true Renaissance man

Terry Brammall had many talents, interests

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — The traditional definition of Renaissance man is someone with many talents and interests. Friends and family say that definition pretty much fit Terrence Brammall to a T.

Brammall, 60, died March 8 at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Montefore Hospital in Pittsburgh.

"He was very interested in life," Terrence's wife Nancy said. "He was very much wanting to learn anything he could learn. He just had a general love for life. He loved to do new things."

Brammall was an avid fisherman, hunter, gardener and later in life became interested in faceting gemstones, Nancy said.

"We went to Crater of Diamonds State Park in Arkansas to dig for diamonds," Brammall said.

"He even went to school for faceting, he took a course in gem identification."

The two met while both were students at Tri-State University. Brammall's love for diverse subjects was evident even then, Nancy said.

"He belonged to the sports car club, the debate team and all the engineering clubs," she said. Brammall worked while going to school, and managed to fit in all the work and club activity he could, she said. "He just made the hours."

The couple's love for wildlife led them to donate 50 acres of land along Pigeon Lake and the Pigeon River to to ACRES Inc. to create the Terry and Nancy Brammall Nature Preserve, which is east of Angola on U.S. 20.

Friend Tom Hatfield said Brammall's love of learning even extended to some unexpected periods. Hatfield worked as a salesman for a company that sold machines to Brammall's company, Trans Guard Industries.

"We just started talking about hunting, and that turned into a friendship," Hatfield said. "We ended up hunting together for 10-15 years."

On some hunts, however, Brammall's mind seemed to be elsewhere, Hatfield said.

"I'm a very serious deer hunter, and so I'd be carrying only what I needed for the hunt. Terry would have knapsack full of books. There'd be times when he'd be reading in the tree stand."

Hatfield said Brammall's mind allowed Brammall to do things others couldn't.

"He was amazing. When I met him he was just starting Trans Guard. As we'd introduce new models we'd have a lot of machines that we realized were past their prime. He'd buy those and he would strip the machines down and you'd see them later on and they would be all painted and he's making new parts."

Sometimes, Hatfield said, Brammall could get over his head on some projects.

"As brilliant an engineer as he was, he had this attitude that he could do everything," Hatfield said. "He got himself into a lot of fixes where he'd get in over his head. He was sometimes one of those absent-minded professor types."

Tony Smith of Smith Enterprises worked with Brammall for many years.

"When he was at Trans Guard he was buying tires from me. Then, he helped me when I was opening up a wheel business. He built equipment for me," Smith said. "We just became closer and became friends."

Brammall's son, Hezekiah Davis, remembered his father's exploits as a sailor.

"He owned several different boats, he even chartered a boat in The Bahamas," Davis said. "He had an adventurous personality."

Nancy said her husband had to leave his company after 2000 after he discovered he required a multi-visceral transplant.

"That didn't keep his mind from working, even if physically he wasn't able to pursue the things he wanted to do," she said.

Davis said he thought that his father knew that he wouldn't have as much time as other people, so he did his best to fit in everything he could into the time he had.

"He didn't know when his time was going to come," Davis said. "He never let his illness effect what he was going to to pursue."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Terrence Brammall fit a number of lifetimes of learning and working into a short 60 years. His interests were as diverse as faceting gemstones, boating, gardening and deer hunting. He is survived by his wife, Nancy.

Paul Moore

AUBURN — Paul C. Moore, 76, of Auburn passed away Saturday morning, April 11, 2009, at his home.

A graduate of Wawaka High School, Paul enlisted with the Marine Corps and served during the Korean Conflict. He retired in 1986 after 30 years with International Harvester and was an active member of the Auburn Church of the Nazarene.

Mr. Moore

Born Dec. 30, 1932, in Albion, he was the son of the late Clarence and Bessie (Wells) Moore.

He married Glenda L. Hawk on Aug. 9, 1957, in Albion, and she survives.

Also surviving are one daughter and son-in-law, Leesa and Rick Houser of Butler; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Bob Moore of Tipton and Wayne and Ina Moore of Ligonier; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Joan Davis of Fort Wayne, Helen and Delbert Hipshire of Columbia City and Judy and Harold Sparrow of Sierra Vista, Ariz., and several nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were an infant son, David Michael Moore, and a sister, Mildred Miller.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at the Auburn Church of the Nazarene, 2301 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. Lorne MacMillan and the Rev. Dan White officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Monday from 2-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn and one hour prior to the service Tuesday at the church.

Memorials are to the Auburn Church of the Nazarene or DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

Norman Coak

BUTLER — Norman "Bill" Coak, 70, of Butler died Friday, April 10, 2009, at his home.

He worked for the Norfolk and Southern Railroad as a yard master in New Haven for 33 years before retiring in 1989. He loved and was proud of being a farmer. He farmed his land all of his life. He was a former member of the New Haven Eagles. He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving in the Army National Guard and the Reserves.

He was born Sept. 26, 1938, in Fort Wayne to the late Sanford E. and Anna (Armstrong) Coak.

He married Mary Noblit on Sept. 23, 1988, in Defiance, Ohio, and she survives.

Also surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Ricky and Carol Coak of Fort Wayne, Chad and Rhonda Coak of Butler and Chad Tepfer of Colorado Springs, Colo.; two daughters and a son-in-law, Jody and Rick Frye of Waterloo and Nichole Priniski of Hamilton; 11 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Edith Hershberger of Auburn and Gladys of Maryland; and a brother, Sanford Coak Jr. of Ohio.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Marvin Coak, and four sisters, Dorothea Rolley, Dorothy Hall, Marie Hand and Juanita Gronau.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo. The Rev. Ken Weaver will officiate. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery, Auburn. Serving as pallbearers will be Luke Coak, Austin Coak, Caleb Coak, Derrick Staley, Fred Johnson and Steven Warstler.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

The family asks that any memorial donations be directed to the Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department or the Children First Center in Auburn.

THE EVENING STAR

April 13 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Helen Benzinger

AUBURN — Helen F. Benzinger, 58, of Auburn and formerly of Mt. Juliet, Tenn., died Saturday, April 11, 2009, at the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home of Fort Wayne.

She was born April 29, 1950, in Iron Mountain, Mich., to George Clifford and Sonya Jean (Denny) Powell.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Brooke E. and Todd Ameling of Auburn; a son and daughter-in-law, Preston W. and Paula Benzinger of Fort Wayne; five brothers, Mike Powell of Fort Wayne, George Powell of Fort Wayne, John Skaggs of Las Vegas, NV, Rich Skaggs of Poe, and Stacy Pease of Fort Wayne; three sisters, Norma Butterfield of Yucca Valley, CA, Lisa Barnoske of Fort Wayne, and Kathy Cooper of Indianapolis; and four grandchildren, Bryce Ameling, Mason Schwartz, Bronson Schwartz and Cassi Schwartz.

There will be no calling or funeral services conducted.

Memorials may be directed to the Ronald McDonald House or the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home of Ft Wayne.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Rollie Reeder

KENDALLVILLE — Rollie W. Reeder, 81, of Kendallville died Sunday, April 12, 2009, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mr. Reeder worked for 31 years at County Line Cheese, retiring in 1984. He also drove a school bus for the East Noble School Corp. for 13 years.

He graduated from Garrett High School and was a World War II Army Air Force veteran.

He was born in Richland Township in DeKalb County on July 10, 1927, to Charles Sr. and Cora (Boren) Reeder. He married Emma Stebing on July 1, 1950, in DeKalb County. She died Feb. 23, 1995.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Pam and Homer Morgan of Kendallville; a son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Barbara Reeder of Kendallville; two grandchildren, Dannielle Gibson and Benjamin Morgan; a great-grandson, Hunter Michael Gibson; and three sisters, Mable Bry of Auburn, Reah Stebing of Auburn and Audry Albright of Kendallville.

He was also preceded in death by a grandson, Wesley M. Reeder; a great-grandson, Charles Hamilton Gibson; and two brothers, Charles Reeder Jr. and Robert E. Reeder.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Sedan Cemetery near Corunna with the Rev. Earl Bolen officiating.

Burial will be from noon to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials are to the Lions Eye Bank.

Hilda Wasson

AUBURN — Hilda M. Wasson, 88, of Auburn died Sunday, April 12, 2009, at Wesley Healthcare in Auburn.

Mrs. Wasson was a homemaker.

She was a member of Dayspring Community Church in Auburn.

She was born July 6, 1920, in Jackson Township, DeKalb County, to Artie and Blanche (Myers) McNamara. She married Jean W. Wasson on April 27, 1944, in Leo. He survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Thomas D. and Becky Wasson of Auburn and Steven Wasson of Avilla; a daughter, Susan Bailey of Huntington; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Mildred Anderson; a brother, Hubert McNamara; a son-in-law, David Bailey; and a daughter-in-law, Sharon Wasson.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville. Burial will be in White City Cemetery at Spencerville.

Calling will be one hour prior to services Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society, DeKalb County Unit, P.O. Box 722, Auburn, IN 46706.

Ann Sachen

AUBURN — Ann M. Sachen, 92, of Auburn died Monday, April 13, 2009, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mrs. Sachen worked for 15 years for Sheller Globe in Grabill, retiring in 1980.

She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn.

She was born in Hammond on Oct. 18, 1916, to Joseph and Jennie (Shultz) Ambre. She married William "Bill" Sachen in Aurora, Ill., on May 20, 1939. He died Oct. 8, 2001.

Surviving are a son and two daughters-in-law, Kenneth W. and Sue Sachen of Fort Wayne and Sheila Sachen of Harrison, Mich.; five daughters and four sons-in-law, JoAnn and Allen Fair of Auburn, Paula Davis of Fort Wayne, Linda and Vern Owen of Fort Wayne, Ellen and Rick Gonser of Kendallville and Stephanie and the Rev. Jack Wolfe of Sugar Hill, Ga.; 16 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Eleanore Zander of Oakview, Calif., and Leanore Smith of Bellflower, Calif.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a son, Gerald "Jerry" F. Sachen; a granddaughter, Sarah Moyer; three brothers, Larry, Earl and Raymond Ambre; and five sisters, Louise Burgholzer, Collette Shuster, Earlene Petit, Theresa Ambre and Jeanette Hankes.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Highland Park Cemetery at Fort Wayne.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

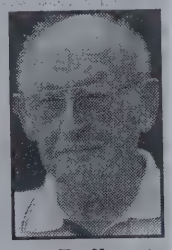
Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

THE EVENING STAR

April 14 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Paul Bolinger

AVILLA — Paul E. Bolinger, 83, died Saturday, April 4, 2009, at the Shady Rest Care Pavilion in Fort Myers, Fla. Mr. Bolinger had been in declining health for the past three years.



Mr. Bolinger

Mr. Bolinger retired from the town of Avilla in 1988 as its utility manager, a position he held from 1978 to 1988.

Prior to that he served as the town marshal from 1966 to 1977 and served on the Avilla Town Board from 1992 to 1996.

Mr. Bolinger also owned his own business, Avilla Engraving.

He moved to Avilla in 1966 from Auburn. In 2001 he moved to Florida.

Mr. Bolinger also served his country during World War II in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

Mr. Bolinger was active in the Garrett chapter of the Knights of Columbus and was a member of the Avilla American Legion Post 240 and several other organizations.

Mr. Bolinger was born on March 14, 1926, in Piercton, Ind., to Ervin and Cecil May (Wilson) Bolinger.

On March 25, 1945, in Champaign, Ill., he married his first wife, Beulah M. Jetmore. She died Dec. 22, 1982. In August of 1986, at the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Avilla, he married Patricia Walt. She survives in Florida.

Other survivors include his sons and daughters-in-law, Bruce and Nini Bolinger of Fremont, Calif., Barry Bolinger of Albion and Bradley and Charlotte Bolinger of Flower Mound, Texas; his extended family, Charlene Stomm, Charles Rhodes and Paul Rhodes; five grandsons; seven great-grandchildren; and two brothers, Glen Bollinger of Kendallville and Clarence Bolinger of Staton, Texas.

Mr. Bolinger was also preceded in death by his parents; a brother; and a sister.

Services will be held at 11:30 a.m. Friday at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Avilla with Father Dale Bauman officiating. Burial will be in Saint Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Avilla with military graveside services by Avilla American Legion Post 240.

Calling will be from 3-8 p.m. Thursday at the Brazzell Funeral Home, Avilla Chapel, 530 N. Main St., Avilla, and one hour prior to Mass on Friday at the church. The rosary will be recited at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home, with Tom Novy leading the service.

Burdette Phillips

PLEASANT LAKE — Burdette E. Phillips, 87, of Pleasant Lake died at 10:17 p.m. Monday, April 13, 2009, at Northern Lakes Nursing Home in Angola.

Mr. Phillips had worked for the city of Angola and at Tri-State University.

He attended Pleasant Lake United Methodist Church.

Mr. Phillips was a member of Orland American Legion Post 423.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II.

He was born Feb. 2, 1922, in Pleasant Lake to Claude and Delsi (Meek) Phillips.

Surviving are his wife, Deloris I. (Eakright) Phillips of Pleasant Lake, whom he married on March 16, 1946; a sister, Joan Mynhier of Pleasant Lake; and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Arlene Wisel, and a brother, Ned Phillips.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at Mt. Zion Cemetery with Pastor John Boyanowski officiating.

There will be no calling.

Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

Rollie Reeder

KENDALLVILLE — Rollie W. Reeder, 81, of Kendallville died Sunday, April 12, 2009, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mr. Reeder worked for 31 years at County Line Cheese, retiring in 1984. He also drove a school bus for the East Noble School Corp. for 13 years.

He graduated from Garrett High School and was a World War II Army Air Force veteran.

He was born in Richland Township in DeKalb County on July 10, 1927, to Charles Sr. and Cora (Boren) Reeder. He married Emma Stebing on July 1, 1950, in DeKalb County. She died Feb. 23, 1995.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Pam and Homer Morgan of Kendallville; a son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Barbara Reeder of Kendallville; two grandchildren, Dannielle Gibson and Benjamin Morgan; a great-grandson, Hunter Michael Gibson; and three sisters, Mable Bry of Auburn, Reah Stebing of Auburn and Audry Albright of Kendallville.

He was also preceded in death by a grandson, Wesley M. Reeder; a great-grandson, Charles Hamilton Gibson; and two brothers, Charles Reeder Jr. and Robert E. Reeder.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Sedan Cemetery near Corunna with the Rev. Earl Bolen officiating.

Calling will be from noon to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials are to the Lions Eye Bank.

THE EVENING STAR
April 17 2009 Auburn, Indiana

George Friend

CORUNNA — George Friend, 89, of Corunna died Monday, April 13, 2009, at his home.

He was a graduate of Waterloo High School with the class of 1937.

Mr. Friend worked for General Electric in Fort Wayne before being drafted to the U.S. Army where he served during World War II. When he returned from the service, he went to work for Warner Gear in Auburn as a machinist for 30 years, retiring in 1975.

He was a member of the Zephyrhills Wesleyan Church in Zephyrhills, Fla., where he spent most of his winters. He was a former member of the Corunna United Brethren Church where he taught a Sunday School class for many years. He also volunteered his time by mowing the church yard for nearly 30 years.

He was a devoted husband, and the best of dads. He loved each of his grandchildren dearly and they brought him much joy. He enjoyed good food and playing cards. He also had a special love for animals.

He was born June 15, 1919, to Emery and Mattie (Knox) Friend.

He married Virginia Woolever on May 25, 1946, in Waterloo. She passed away on April 5, 2007.

He was also preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Jairus Friend; and a sister, Irene Myers.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Lee and Sharon Friend; a daughter and son-in-law, Bonnie and Jerry Blastick; five grandchildren, Joe Blastick, Kim and Marc Klein, Brian Blastick, Stephanie Friend and her companion, Chris Thornbro, and Andy Friend; a brother, Stanley Friend; and a brother-in-law, Eugene Woolever.

Private family services were held Thursday, April 16, at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Richard Pickard officiating. Burial took place in Corunna Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Corunna Volunteer Fire Department or the DeKalb Humane Shelter at Butler.

THE EVENING STAR

April 18 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Mark Shaffer Sr.

BUTLER — Mark J. Shaffer Sr., 46, of Butler died Monday, April 13, 2009, in Niles, Mich., from injuries he sustained in a logging accident.

Memorial services will be at 1 p.m. Friday, April 24, at Fairview Missionary Church, 525 E. C.R. 200N, Angola.

Church, children were her life

Mildred Close lived her 102 years in faith

BY KATHRYN BASSETT
kathrynb@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — When asked to describe the late Mildred Close, friend Jean Gronendyke does not hesitate.

"Lovely," Gronendyke said. "She was just a lovely person. She was loving, she was caring, she was dependable and responsible. I'm going to miss her."

Mrs. Close, of Auburn, died Monday, March 9, 2009, at her daughter's home in Columbus, Ohio. She was 102.

Gronendyke and Mrs. Close became friends through their mutual involvement in the Auburn Presbyterian Church, the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum and the Chi Eta chapter of Sigma Beta sorority. Mrs. Close's late husband, Maurice, was Gronendyke's boss at Rieke Corp. for many years, Gronendyke added.

Mrs. Close joined the Auburn Presbyterian Church on April 16, 1933, and was very active in the church her whole life. She was a former president and vice president of the Presbyterian Women's Association, president and vice president of the church's Ruth Circle, a former choir member, Sunday school teacher, youth sponsor and pianist.

In a newspaper interview on the occasion of her 100th birthday, Mrs. Close said, "Church and children have been my life."

Gronendyke first met Mrs. Close when Gronendyke started singing in the church choir in 1946.

"She was a choir member then," Gronendyke recalled. "I really first knew her through the church. Then the other things fell into place."

At age 100

Mrs. Close

Gronendyke praised Mrs. Close's musical talents.

"Her daughter told me that even to the last, she would go and sit down and play the piano," Gronendyke said.

Mrs. Close was a charter member of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum and the museum's women's association.

"She was a good, participating member," Gronendyke said. "When we had tickets to sell, she sold her tickets, and there were never any complaints! She had a good understanding that if you had those fundraising events, the membership had to participate, too."

Mrs. Close also was a charter member of the Sigma Beta sorority and served as its past president and vice president. Gronendyke said Mrs. Close she was active in the organization until the time of her death.

"We met, and she was always there. She wanted to come," Gronendyke added.

Sigma Beta member Miriam Buckles enjoyed attending sorority meetings with Mrs. Close.

"She was just a nice person to be around and positive in her thinking. She was a sweet gal. We all loved her," Buckles said.

Along with her involvement in many organizations, Mrs. Close raised her two children — Frederick, who was born in 1939, and Carole, who was born in 1943 — maintained a household and worked in a day when many women did not work outside the home. She worked for nine years in the office of the Auburn City Light Department and, after her marriage, got a job at the Auburn Automobile Co. Together, the Closes transferred to Connersville when Mr. Close was head of the automobile plant's cost department. The couple moved back to Auburn after the Connersville plant closed and decided to settle and raise a family.

"I can remember at her funeral, her son saying that his mother worked, but always was home and had lunch for him and his sister at noon time. She was always there," Gronendyke said.

Other organizations that enjoyed Mrs. Close's membership and participation included the Friends of Eckhart Library, the Ladies Literary Club, the Auburn and DeKalb County Heart Fund Drive and the Northeast Heart Association Board, of which she was vice president. She was a leader with Girl Scouts and Brownies and was a 50-year member of Auburn Chapter of Eastern Star.

On turning 100, Mrs. Close acknowledged that involvement and participation accounted for her longevity.

"That's what's kept me going and kept me young — keeping busy," Mrs. Close said.

Billie Romine

COLUMBIA CITY — Billie Romine, 85, of Columbia City, died at 2:30 p.m. Friday, April 17, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne where he was admitted on Tuesday, April 14th.

He was born Jan. 10, 1924, in Allen County, a son of Glen and Zella (Schwartz) Romine. He began his schooling in Auburn and later Leo, graduating from Spencerville High School.

Mr. Romine

On March 28, 1945, he enlisted in the United States Army. During World War II he served in the Signal Corp. He was honorably discharged Dec. 1, 1946.

On March 27, 1948 he was united in marriage to Jessie Maxine Brown. They made their home in Dekalb County until 1997 when they moved to Columbia City.

He retired from carpentry work in 1986, working for Stanley Hartsel and Paul Souder.

His memberships include Big Lake Church of God and D.A.V.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Jessie Maxine; three daughters and sons-in-law, Janet and Larry Reed of Columbia City, Cheryl and Tim Bracht of Huntertown and Sarah and John Winters of Fort Wayne; seven grandchildren, Jeffrey Reed, Douglas Reed, Melisa Bracht-Wagner, Brent Bracht, Paul Bracht, Drake Winters and Drew Winters; six great-grandchildren; three sisters, Virginia Stout of Washington, Peggy Johnson of Nebraska and Lois Sutton of Indianapolis; and a stepsister, Jean Culbertson of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by a grandson, Eric Reed; two brothers, Donald Romine and Mike Romine; and four sisters, Luella McCullough, Betty Graham, Mary Jo Haupert and Karla Romine.

The funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Big Lake Church of God, 6955 N. S.R. 109, Columbia City with Pastor Tim Kumfer, church pastor, officiating. The visitation will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Smith & Sons Funeral Home, Columbia City and one hour before the service at the church on Wednesday.

The committal service will begin at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday at Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

For those who wish, memorials may be made to Big Lake Church of God.

Condolences may be sent to www.smithandsonsfuneralhome.com

Sandra Albert

GARRETT — Sandra Elaine Albert, age 52, a loving, devoted wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend, went home to be with the Lord Saturday, April 18, 2009, at her home.

Mrs. Albert

She was born in Auburn on January 15, 1957, to Helen and Richard Johnson, also of Auburn. Mrs. Albert graduated from DeKalb High School in 1974 and then went on to receive a two year Business degree at I.P.F.W. She worked for several years at the Messenger Corp. in Auburn as a sales representative and many more years at Mid-City Office Supply of Auburn, also in sales.

On November 26, 1994, she married Tim Albert of Garrett at County Line Church of God in DeKalb County. In 1999, they had a son, Ezekiel. Since that time, Mrs. Albert has been a devoted mother and wife and saw no greater task than rearing children in a loving, nurturing, Christ-centered home. She saw being a humble, servant as her mission in life.

Sandi was preceded in death by two sisters; Nancy Ann in 1950 and Patricia Marie in 1951. Her father, Richard, also preceded her in 1998.

Surviving are her husband Tim, (a teacher at Eastside High School), and son Zeke in their rural Garrett home. Also surviving are mother Helen Johnson of Auburn; sister Sharon Fiengold and her husband Roger of Jacksonville, Florida; brother Walter Johnson of Orland, Indiana; and brother-in law Art Albert and his wife Carol of Auburn.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m., Tuesday, April 21, at County Line Church of God on C.R. 72 rural Aubun. Funeral services will also be held at County Line Church of God at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 22, with final viewing from 10-11. Officiating the services will be Reverend Al Black and Stuart Kruse. Burial will be at Ceader Creek Cemetery on C.R. 11-A, Garrett. Memorials may be directed to Lakewood Park Christian School (Scholarship Fund).

Feller & Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, is handling arrangements.

LaGrange County Commissioner Roger Boots, 70, dies at home

WOLCOTTVILLE — Roger W. Boots, 70, of Wolcottville, died Sunday, April 19, 2009, at his residence.

Mr. Boots

He was a lifetime resident of LaGrange and Steuben counties. Roger was a retired farmer and a current LaGrange County Commissioner serving the south district of LaGrange County from 2004 to the present. He was a member of the Stroh Church of Christ, the Pheasants Forever and an Associate Supervisor for the Soil and Water Conservation District. He was also a U.S. Army Veteran.

Roger was born on May 7, 1938, in Steuben County to Kenyon and Wava Gene (Alleshouse) Boots. On January 11, 1959, he married Ann L. Perkins in Stroh. She survives in Wolcottville.

Also surviving are four daughters and sons-in-law, Julie and Mark Diehm of Wolcottville, Jill and Brad Gehring of Kendallville, Lisa and John Hancock of Spring Hill, Fla. and Lila and Steve Bowen of LaGrange; one son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Diana Boots of Wolcottville; 18 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; one sister, Marcia Helmuth of Hudson; and a brother, Gale Boots of Hudson.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Chester Boots; a granddaughter; and a grandson.

Services will be at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2009, at the Stroh Church of Christ with Pastor Mike Hamm officiating. Burial will take place in Woodruff Cemetery, Wolcottville.

Calling will be Tuesday, April 21, 2009, at the church from 2-8 p.m.

Memorials are to the Stroh Church of Christ, or Parkview Home Health and Hospice.

Online condolences may be submitted to the family at www.fruripmavfuneralhome.com.

Judy Cassiday

KENDALLVILLE — Judy Lou Cassiday, age 64, of Kendallville, passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 18, 2009, at her home north of Kendallville.

Mrs. Cassiday

Mrs. Cassiday was born in Clovis, New Mexico on December 21, 1944, to Charles Monroe Barbee and Thelma Louisa (Walden) Boies.

She was married to Richard Levi Cassiday in Winterhaven, California, on May 19, 1962. Richard preceded her death on November 10, 2007.

Mrs. Cassiday was employed with McDonald-Douglas in Long Beach, California, for five years. She helped in the manufacturing of the DC-8. She also worked at General Motors in Southgate, California, and Oklahoma City for 10 years. She and Richard moved to Indiana in 1983 where she was employed with Machine Rite in LaGrange.

Judy loved to spend time with her family and attend church. She also enjoyed the simple things in life such as reading, sewing and cooking.

Survivors include two daughters, Charlette Cassiday and her companion, Robin Smith both of Auburn, and Heather Cassiday of Kendallville; four grandchildren, LaRisa Pickard, Alora Cassiday and Robert Barnes all of Kendallville and Shawna Pickard of Auburn; two great-grandchildren, Skyra Kay Likens and Saige Elise Polumbio, two brothers Otis Boies of Greenville, California, and Earl Boies of Sutton, Alaska, and two sisters, Betty Ralph of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Ora Ann Boies of Uba City, California.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; her daughter, LaDona Sawyer on June 23, 2006; a sister, Avis Commander; and a brother, James H. Barbee.

Visitation will be Tuesday, April 21, 2009, from 4-8 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home, 403 South Main Street in Kendallville. Funeral services will be Wednesday, April 22, 2009, at 11 a.m. at Hite Funeral Home. Officiating the funeral service will be Rev. Earl Tackett and Rev. Phil Puckett. Burial will be at Brushy Chapel Cemetery in LaGrange, Indiana. Casket-bearers will be her two daughters, Charlette and Heather, Mike Diehm, Denny Barnes, Matthew Hicks and Earl Terry.

To view a video tribute by Tuesday or send condolences to the family, go to www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Patricia Bolinger

AVILLA — Patricia Jane "Pat" Bolinger, age 80, died Saturday, April 18, 2009, at 1:08 a.m. at Provena Sacred Heart Home In Avilla. She had been in declining health since February.

She was born on February 10, 1929 in Garrett, Indiana, to Michael and Marquarite nee Miller Walt. She was a liftime Avilla resident and worked in the cafeteria at the Avilla School and was a waitress at St. James Restaurant for many years.

She was a 1948 Avilla High School graduate. A member of the Avilla American Legion Auxillary and St. Mary's Rosary Society.

In August of 1986 she married Paul Bolinger at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Avilla. They moved to Florida in 2001. Mr. Bolinger died on April 4, 2009.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Charlene and Steven Stomm of Waterloo; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Donald and Maudie Rhodes of Avilla, and Paul Rhodes of Auburn; three grandchildren, Shane, Eric and Randy; extended family, Bruce, Barry and Brad Bolinger; six extended grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and brothers, Mike (Marilyn) Walt of LaPorte, Jim (Sara) Walt of Colorado, Tom (Toni) Walt of Montana, and Bob Walt of Rome City.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul, her parents, and a sister, Kathleen Redman.

Mass of Christian Burial will be Thursday, April 23, 2009, at 11:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Avilla. Calling will be Wednesday from 3 until 8 p.m. at Brazzell Funeral Home, Avilla Chapel. Additional calling will be one hour before the service on Thursday.

A Rosary service will be recited by Tom Novy on Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

Burial will be at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Avilla.

Please make memorials in loving memory of Pat to the Cancer Society Northeast.

THE EVENING STAR

April 20 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Helen Miller

AUBURN — Helen M. Miller, 89, of Auburn and formerly of Butler, died Sunday, April 19, 2009, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

Mrs. Miller was an assembler for Crane Edmond in Butler for more than 20 years. She was a member of the Butler United Methodist Church.

She was born July 10, 1919, to Volney J. and Carrie Bell (Singleton) Cross. She married Joseph C. Miller on July 23, 1955, in Angola. He passed away on July 23, 2003.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Joe "Jr." and Marlene Miller of Auburn, and Robert and Louise Dorsey of Ft. Wayne; two daughters and sons-in-law, Pamela and Brian Koski of Waterloo, and Elsie and Duane Huff of Butler; nine grandchildren; and several step grandchildren, great grandchildren, step great grandchildren, and step great great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; two brothers, Robert Cross, and Raymond Cross; two sisters, Alice Bice, and Berniece Crabtree; and a granddaughter.

Services will be 2 p.m. Wednesday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Center St., Waterloo. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Society or DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

THE EVENING STAR

April 21 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Everett Newcomer

BAXTER SPRINGS, Kan. — Everett Lee "Buzz" Newcomer, 78, of Baxter Springs died at 9:20 p.m. Sunday, April 19, 2009, at his home.

Mr. Newcomer had moved to Baxter Springs in 1974 from Indiana.

He retired in 1982 as a self-employed painter. He had also worked several years as a contractor with the U.S. government.

Mr. Newcomer was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War.

He was born May 28, 1930, in Edon, Ohio, to Ralph D. and Mary (Harms) Newcomer. He married Carolyn Sue "Susie" Garcia on Aug. 26, 1980, in Baxter Springs. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons, Steven and Rhonda Newcomer of Joplin, Mo., and Billy Newcomer and his companion, Tracy Chaddock, of Baxter Springs; two daughters, Donna Roby of Galena, Kan., and Joy D. Alsbury of Joplin, Mo.; a brother and sister-in-law, Glen E. and Angie Newcomer of Butler, Ind.; 18 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Military graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Oak Hill Cemetery in Galena, Kan., with Pastor Jeff Martin officiating.

Calling will be from 7-8 p.m. Wednesday at Derfelt Funeral Home in Galena.

Memorials are to Community Hospice in care of the funeral home.

THE EVENING STAR

April 22 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Veda Bellows

AVILLA — Veda M. Freeman Bellows, age 88, of Avilla, Ind., died at 5:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 21, 2009, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mrs. Bellows

Veda was born July 5, 1920, in Fort Wayne, Ind., to George and Maime (Bunch) Baysinger and they preceded her in death.

She married Melvin Freeman on August 23, 1937, in Garrett, Ind., and he died on December 26, 1957. She then married John V. Bellows on July 23, 1961, in Garrett, Ind. and he died August 19, 2005.

She taught at Ravenscroft Beauty College from 1959 until 1973 and was the owner of Veda's Beauty Shop from 1957 until 1999.

She is survived by her daughter and son in-law, Janice and Lee Christlieb of Avilla, Ind.; grandchildren, Joni and Matt Blomeke of Avilla, Ind.; Daren Christlieb of Avilla, Ind.; Dina and Scott Teders of Avilla, Ind.; Adam Bock and Brian Bock; Several nieces and nephews; seven great-grandchildren, Andrea, John and Joe Christlieb, Jeremiah Blomeke and Brennen, Aubrey and Jared Teders; and several great-great-grandchildren. She is also survived by a sister, Mary Alice Cline of Fort Wayne, Ind.

In addition to her parents and husbands, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Patricia Bock, and a sister, Grace Bright.

Memorials are to Hospice Home of Northeast Indiana and DeKalb Home Healthcare.

There will be no visitation.

A memorial graveside service will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 25, 2009 at Embrey Cemetery, rural Garrett, IN.

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

THE EVENING STAR

April 23 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Diane Wallace

AUBURN — Diane Y. Wallace, 59, of Auburn died Tuesday, April 21, 2009, at her home in Auburn.

She was born in Leominster, Mass., on June 30, 1949, to Robert Paul and Jacquelin (Metivier) Hall Sr. They have both passed away.

Mrs. Wallace

Mrs. Wallace was a beautician and also worked for Symmetry-Ultrexx in Avilla.

She was a 1967 graduate of Garrett High School. She then graduated from Ravenscroft Beauty College.

On March 30, 1968, in the Garrett United Methodist Church she married John Wallace and he survives in Auburn.

She is also survived by two sons and a daughter-in-law, Douglas A. and Melisa Wallace of Fort Wayne and Gregory J. Wallace of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Erica L. and David Augenstein of Fort Wayne; eight grandchildren, Avary Schmidt, Lilly Mae Wallace, Gracie Wallace, Payton J. Wallace, Parker David Augenstein, Colton Wallace Augenstein, Olivia H. Wallace and Asher Allen Augenstein; a special niece, Ashlyn Clark; a brother and sister-in-law, William and Nancy Harvey of Scranton, Pa.; a sister and brother-in-law, Gertrude and Kenneth Judson of Garrett; and two brothers- and sisters-in-law, Orval and Joan Wallace and Robert and Judy Wallace, all of Auburn.

She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Harold Harvey and Robert Paul Hall Jr.

Services are at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 25, 2009, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn. The Rev. Stuart Kruse will officiate.

Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett.

Calling is Friday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral Home.

Memorials can be directed to Riley's Children's Hospital.

THE EVENING STAR

April 24 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Michael Benya

WATERLOO — Michael Joseph Benya, 19, of Waterloo died Thursday, April 23, 2009, from injuries he sustained in an automobile accident early Thursday morning.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo with Father David Carkenord officiating.

Calling will be from 2-5 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society or the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Valeria Barnhart

WARSAW — Valeria M. Barnhart, 90, of Warsaw and formerly of Auburn died Thursday, April 23, 2009, at Miller's Merry Manor in Warsaw.

Mrs. Barnhart

Mrs. Barnhart was a homemaker.

She was a member of the First Christian Church in Auburn and American Mothers.

She was born in DeKalb County, Nov. 3, 1918, to Herman and Ethel (Johnson) Rennecker.

She married Paul Dilley on Oct. 21, 1939, and he died on Nov. 18, 1974. She then married B.E. Barnhart on Aug. 1, 1981, and he died on Dec. 19, 1982.

Surviving are a son, Leon (Connie) Dilley of Plainfield; a daughter, Phyllis (Richard) Carman of Warsaw; a daughter-in-law, Linda Dilley of Auburn; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a son, DuWayne Dilley; and a brother, Wayne Rennecker.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Monday at First Christian Church, 910 N. Indiana Ave. Auburn, with the Rev. Robert Craig officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 1-3 p.m. Monday at the church.

Memorials are to the First Christian Church in Auburn.

D.O. McComb & Sons Funeral Home in Fort Wayne is in charge of arrangements.

To sign the online guest book, go to www.mccombandsons.com.

Veda Bellows

AVILLA — Veda M. Freeman Bellows, age 88, of Avilla, Ind., died at 5:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 21, 2009, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mrs. Bellows

Veda was born July 5, 1920, in Fort Wayne, Ind., to George and Maime (Bunch) Baysinger and they preceded her in death.

She married Melvin Freeman on August 23, 1937, in Garrett, Ind., and he died on December 28, 1957. She then married John V. Bellows on July 23, 1961, in Garrett, Ind. and he died August 19, 2005.

She taught at Ravenscroft Beauty College from 1959 until 1973 and was the owner of Veda's Beauty Shop from 1957 until 1999.

She is survived by her daughter and son in-law, Janice and Lee Christlieb of Avilla, Ind.; grandchildren, Joni and Matt Blomeke of Avilla, Ind.; Daren Christlieb of Avilla, Ind.; Dina and Scott Teders of Avilla, Ind.; Adam Bock and Brian Bock; Several nieces and nephews; and seven great-grandchildren, Andrea, John and Joe Christlieb, Jeremiah Blomeke and Brennen, Aubrey and Jared Teders. She is also survived by a sister, Mary Alice Cline of Fort Wayne, Ind.

In addition to her parents and husbands, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Patricia Bock, and a sister, Grace Bright.

Memorials are to Hospice Home of Northeast Indiana and DeKalb Home Healthcare.

There will be no visitation.

A memorial graveside service will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 25, 2009 at Kinbrey Cemetery, rural Garrett, IN.

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

THE EVENING STAR

April 26 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Terry Adams overcame obstacles

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Terry Adams' life was about two things, her family said, overcoming obstacles and helping others overcome their own.

Adams, 61, died April 9, in Angola.

Terry's husband, Norman Adams, said his wife was a survivor of abuse while growing up in West Virginia.

"Because of that, she became an advocate for other people who'd been abused," Norman Adams said.

Adams helped to establish the Community Anti-Violence Alliance in Angola, where she'd also worked as a counselor. Norman Adams said she'd also worked as a crisis counselor as a part of a ministry at the couple's church, First Congregational United Church of Christ in Angola, as well as with a rape crisis center in Fort Wayne. Her son, Scott, said he remembered a number of occasions when his mother would be traveling with him on the way to counsel a woman in trouble.

"It was about her getting into the nitty-gritty and helping people," Scott Adams said. His brother, Chip, agreed.

"She was very social-justice oriented," Chip Adams said. "She was really kind of a conscience for people."

As a child, Terry was stricken with polio, which led to a number of surgeries on her legs, Norman Adams said.

"I don't know how many surgeries, but it sealed the rest of her life, because one leg didn't develop correctly," he explained. "That led to curvature of the spine, scoliosis." That ultimately led to a major back surgery.

Though she was in pain for much of her life, that didn't deter her, Scott Adams said.

"A big factor when I chose to live in a dorm my freshman year at Purdue was to find a dorm with handicap-accessibility," he explained. "But on freshman move-in day, we soon realized that the elevator was broken. My room was on the fourth floor. So she hiked up the four flights on her crutches and then back down. I just found that to be truly remarkable. Her whole life, especially after her surgery, was about how to live with this thing."

Despite not being able to sit for long periods and facing other physical limitations, Adams didn't slow down, participating in a number of different activities, from painting and craft work, stage productions, singing with the Sweet Adelines and fishing.

"She loved to fish, I think that was her passion," Norman Adams said. "I don't really know where that came from, but she was the one who really knew how to fish, I was kind of along for the ride." He remembered visiting Michigan's Upper Peninsula on their honeymoon, much of which was spent fishing. Eventually, the couple bought the cabin they'd stayed in. "We always tried to get up there at least once or twice a year."

Norman Adams said he met his wife as she was visiting a friend in Ohio. "She'd run into an old school friend from junior high, who was working as a waitress at a bar, who invited her to come hang out. I just remember that she was one of those people who looked out of place there." They were married five-and-a-half months later.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Terry Adams overcame a childhood of abuse and polio to become an advocate for the abused and worked tirelessly to overcome her own physical challenges.

Adams' adopted son, Brian, who was born with cerebral palsy, remembered his mother as a source of strength.

"If ever you were in a bad situation, she would always make it into a learning experience," Brian Adams said. "She did that no matter what the situation was."

Brian said he was always close to his mother, even after he began living on his own. "Every time I'd go over, she would always tell me she was proud of me. When I met my mother before she died, she told me she was proud of me, that'd I'd done something with my life."

Brian said his mother was always willing to help him look for his birth mother, who gave him up when he was a few months old. Before she passed away, however, Brian told his mother he didn't want to keep looking.

"I told her, 'I found my mom, I found you,'" he said.

THE EVENING STAR

April 26 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Marion 'Lyle' Wiler

AUBURN — Marion "Lyle" Wiler, 90, of Auburn died Friday, April 24, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

He was born in Poe on March 24, 1919, to Clarence Victor and Myrtle May (Hefty) Wiler. His parents have both passed away.

Lyle worked at Hubbard Spool in Garrett for over 35 years before retiring in 1987. He joined the CCC and worked area projects including planting many of the Blue Spruce trees throughout Pokagon State Park, which he was very proud of.

He was an avid bowler, bowling in several leagues. He loved and enjoyed his dogs, grandchildren and working in his yard, which earned him an Auburn Home Improvement Award in 1978.

He married Martha VanGilder on Nov. 21, 1953, in Angola. She died on Sept. 13, 2007.

He is survived by a daughter, Tina Metzger of Auburn; three grandchildren, Tyler Tharpe of Indianapolis, Kelly Sue Tharpe-Rowe of Auburn and Greg Metzger of Las Vegas; five great-grandchildren, Kyle Rowe, Taylor Rowe, Emily Rowe, Jake Lyle Tharpe and Becca Metzger; and three sisters and a brother-in-law, Margie Severance of Garrett, Kathleen Joan Woods of Garrett and Donna Irene and Gerald Creager of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, son-in-law Michael Metzger and four brothers, Gerald Victor Wiler, Bernard LaVon Wiler, Vincent Fern Wiler and Kermit Francis Wiler.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 30, 2009, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn. Pastor Mike Ansbaugh will officiate. Buriai will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling is Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

McKinley Garrett

AUBURN — McKinley Tyler "Peanut" Garrett, 7 months, died Monday, April 27, 2009, at her home.

She was born Sept. 22, 2008, in Auburn to Joshua Tyler Garrett and Kyra White-Garrett. Her father survives in Fort Wayne and her mother survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two sisters, Kennedy and Zoe Garrett of Auburn; maternal grandparents, Bruce and Sarah White of Auburn, and Michele Milholland and Richard Carr of St. Joe; paternal grandparents, Rhonda and Chad Lambright of Fort Wayne and Wayne and Sybil Garrett of Morristown, Tenn.; and great-grandparents, Pat and Bob Spice, Freeman Lambright, Jan and Kenny Steele, Lois Garrett and Milburn and Carol Trent.

Funeral service will be 1 p.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Feller & Clark Funeral Home to help with funeral expenses.

Oscar Wells

BUTLER — Oscar P. Wells, 77, of Butler died Friday, April 24, 2009, at his home.

There will be no calling.

Private family services will be held at a later date.

Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo is in charge of arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
April 30 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Don Greuter

WATERLOO — Don C. Greuter, 77, of Waterloo died Wednesday April 29, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, Auburn.

Mr. Greuter was a truck driver for Vulcraft for 18 years. He then drove part time for Evans Trucking in Butler.

Mr. Greuter

He was born Sept. 19, 1931, in Defiance, Ohio, to Elmer and Pearl (Closson) Greuter.

He married Nora "June" Carroll on Aug. 29, 1969, in Pleasant Lake. She survives in Waterloo.

Also surviving are five daughters, Jackie Williams of Warsaw, Brenda Naish of Warsaw, Judy Watson of St. Joe, Nina Bennet of Waterloo and Cathy Greuter of Avilla; one brother, Delmer Greuter of Butler; four sisters, Margie Claar of Union City, Mich., Jan Harding of New Haven, Joyce Stonebraker of Fort Wayne and Ellie Fike of Corunna; 11 grandchildren; and nine stepgrandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a stepdaughter, Virginia Brake; three brothers, Jennings Greuter, Melvin Greuter and John Greuter; and a sister, Dorothy Elser.

A graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn, with Larry Williams officiating.

Calling will be from 2-6 p.m. Sunday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials may be directed to the family.

Paul Miller

HUDSON — Paul Russell Miller, age 75, of rural Hudson, died on Thursday, April 30, 2009, at home.

Mr. Miller

Mr. Miller was born near Hudson in Steuben County on September 15, 1933, to the late Ray Owen and Alice Mae (Stout) Miller.

He graduated from Kendallville High School in 1953 and married Joan Fannin on July 25, 1954, in Hudson.

He was a lifetime Steuben County farmer and was employed with Monsanto in Ligonier for 32 years before retiring in 1995.

He was a member of the St. Mary's of the Angels Catholic Chapel at Big Long Lake.

Paul enjoyed tractor pulls and fixing up old tractors.

He belonged to the Steuben County Antique Tractor Association, the Cedar Creek Tractor Association, and the Noble County Tractor Association.

Each year he looked forward to helping with the Riley Tractor Pull in Auburn.

Paul also loved to put out and tend to his garden.

His dog, Holly, was a faithful friend and golf cart companion.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Joan Miller of Hudson; four daughters, Kim and Pat Dunno of Coldwater, Michigan, Carla Miller of Kendallville, Amy Miller of Convoy, Ohio, and Shelly MaHannah of Garrett; three sons, Paul and Renee Miller II of Hudson, Scott and Tam Miller of Kendallville and Tony and Gail Miller of Columbia City; 24 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; one sister, Treva Miller of Rome City; and three nieces.

He was preceded in death by a great-grandson, Skylar David Scott Miller, and a brother-in-law, Glenn Miller.

Visitation will be Sunday, May 3, 2009, from 2-7 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St. in Kendallville.

Mass of Christian burial will be Monday, May 4, 2009, at 2 p.m. at St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Chapel at Big Long Lake. There will be one hour of viewing before the funeral.

Officiating the funeral service will be Fr. David Carkenord.

Burial will be at Wright Cemetery in Stroh, Indiana.

Casketbearers will be Pat Dunno, Joe Greuter, Don Swank, Dan Wagler, Jeff Birch, Ryan TenEyck, Scott Miller and Zayne Weck.

Preferred memorials may be made to Riley Hospital for Children.

Send online condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Jean Sicks

AUBURN — Jean E. Sicks, 89, died Thursday, April 30, 2009, at The Laurels in Butler.

Mrs. Sicks

Mrs. Sicks had worked at the Auburn Rubber Co. until it closed. She then joined the housekeeping department at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn. She retired from there in 1996 with 19 years of service.

Following her retirements she spent the winter months in Florida with her daughters.

Mrs. Sicks was a member of St. Mark Lutheran Church in St. Joe.

She was born Sept. 17, 1919, in St. Joe, Ind., to Derwood B. and Callie (Wineland) Ridgway. She married Keith Davis and he preceded her in death.

Surviving are two daughters, Delores (Larry) Emenhiser of Spencerville and Linda Hiser of Antwerp, Ohio; a son Derwood Lee (Roz) Davis of Urbana, Ohio; nine grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren; and a sister, Janice Hollabaugh of Butler.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Phyllis June Baker on Sept. 30, 2004, and a brother, John Kenneth Ridgway on Sept. 24, 2001.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m., with calling one hour prior to services at St. Mark Lutheran Church in St. Joe. Merle Holden will officiate.

Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery at St. Joe.

Memorials are to St. Mark Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 345, St. Joe, IN 46785.

THE EVENING STAR
May 3 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Former marshal cared about Avilla

BY JENNY KOBIELA-MONDOR
jennyk@kpcnews.net

AVILLA — Paul Bolinger made the town of Avilla a priority in his life for decades.

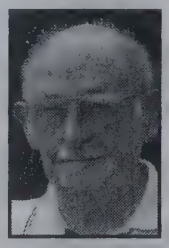
Bolinger served as town marshal from 1966, when he moved to the town, until 1977 and was the utility manager from 1978 to 1988. He also served on the Avilla Town Board from 1992 to 1996.

Bolinger died April 4 at the Shady Rest Care Pavilion in Fort Myers, Fla.

"He was a good man for the town," said Avilla town manager Bill Ley. Bolinger was the utility manager and, therefore, Ley's boss when Ley began working at the town 27 years ago.

"The town was his first priority as far as the job goes," Ley added. "He wanted to do what was best for the town, and he didn't show any favoritism. He was an all-around good guy."

As utility manager, Bolinger spent his time making sure the town's departments, including water, wastewater and electric utilities, ran efficiently.


Mr. Bolinger

"If there was a power outage in the middle of the night, he was the one they called," Ley said. "If there was a water problem in the middle of the night, he was the one they called."

Terry Brazzell was the Avilla Fire Chief for several years while Bolinger served as utility manager. He said he remembers Bolinger plowing snow, always taking care to plow the fire department and marshal's office first.

"He was out all hours of the day and night plowing snow," Brazzell said.

Brazzell added that he considered Bolinger a friend, "and I think Paul considered me a friend."

He said Bolinger could be gruff if someone didn't know him, but he was a funny person once he knew someone.

"He had one of the driest senses of humor," Brazzell said. "You had to pay attention to Paul."

Brazzell said Bolinger was tough, but fair, as town marshal.

"He even stopped me when I was a 16-year-old driver, when I was pretty cocky, and he treated me fairly then," Brazzell said. "I didn't get a ticket, but I got a pretty good lecture. … I knew the next time I came through Avilla or was in Avilla, I wouldn't be screwing around."

"He was a good man," Ley said. "He always tried to do what he thought was best for anyone or everyone, and sometimes putting his own family life on the back burner until that was accomplished."

"He could be gruff," Brazzell said, "but underneath that gruffness was a heart of gold."

Janet Gibson

AUBURN — Janet M. Gibson, 71, died Friday, May 1, 2009, at her home in rural Auburn.

Mrs. Gibson was a caregiver for most of her life. She worked for DeKalb Memorial Hospital for 21 years, Kendallville Hospital for three years and Home Health Care Services for five years, retiring in January 2009.

She was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Auburn. She enjoyed spending her winters in Arizona with special friends.

Mrs. Gibson

She was born July 21, 1937, in Decatur to Van and Pearl (Fisk) Miller.

She married Ralph J. Gibson on Oct. 1, 1955. He preceded her in death on Jan. 14, 2008.

Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Roger and Sylvia Gibson of Van Wert, Ohio, Mark and Christine Gibson of Auburn and Glenn and Kim Gibson of Pleasant Lake; one brother and sister-in-law, Norm and Arlene Miller of Convoy, Ohio; one sister and brother-in-law, June and Art Krauss of Hoagland; six grandchildren, Nicholas, Melissa, Rachel, Lynsie, Erica and Isaac Gibson; three stepgrandchildren, Chris, Val and Greg; one great-grandchild, Hayley Gibson; and nine stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one son, Chris Gibson.

A funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Father David Carkenord officiating. Burial will be in Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be Monday from 2-8 p.m. and Tuesday from noon-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the American Cancer Society or a charity of the donor's choice.

R.V. Banks

GARRETT — R.V. Banks, 64, of Garrett died Wednesday, April 29, 2009, at his residence.

He was a U.S. Army veteran and a member of God's House of Prayer in Avilla.

He was born March 8, 1945, in Blue Diamond, Ky., to B. and Georgia E. (Brock) Banks.

Surviving are a brother, JC Banks of Auburn, and three sisters, Shirley Hunter of Fort Wayne, Irene Johnson of Jackson, Ky., and Helen Terry of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Alvis, Stanley Gene and Ray Dean Banks; and six sisters, Opal Fugate, Violet Terry, Annabelle Maloney, Lorene Feightner, Nadine Banks and Pauline Banks.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett, with military graveside services by the Garrett American Legion and VFW.

Calling will be Monday from 2-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home.

Memorials are to the family to assist with funeral expenses. To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook visit, thomasfuneralhome.org.

THE EVENING STAR

May 4 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Ronald Weimer

GARRETT — Ronald E. Weimer, 70, and a lifetime Garrett resident died at 8:27 a.m., Saturday, May 2, 2009, at his home.

He was born Dec. 21, 1938, in Avilla to Howard W. and Margaret S. (Erdly) Weimer and they preceded him in death.

Mr. Weimer

He married Nancy Lou Ely on Aug. 25, 1962, in Garrett and she survives in Garrett.

He was a Garrett High School graduate and a 1961 graduate of Manchester College where he played football and ran track. He later received his Masters degree from St. Francis University.

Ronald was an educator for 36 years before retiring in July 1997. He taught at DeKalb Central Schools for 18 years and Garrett-Keyser-Butler for 18 years. He was a school board member for the past three years with the Garrett-Keyser-Butler Schools.

He was a member of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Garrett and an Order of the Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts and participated in the Wednesday Night Golf League at the Garrett Country Club. After his retirement from teaching, Ronald worked part-time at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett.

Survivors include his wife Nancy Lou (Ely) Weimer of Garrett; and three sons and two daughters-in-law, David W. and Pam Weimer of Fort Wayne, Dr. Dan E. and Barbara Weimer of Garrett and Dean R. Weimer of Garrett. Also surviving are eight grandchildren and two sisters, Betty Hill of Deshler, Ohio, and Sally Porter of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Dennis Lee Weimer; and two brothers, Robert Weimer and Roger Weimer.

Visitation will be from 1-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett.

A service celebrating his years as an educator will begin at 1:30 pm. Thursday, May 7, 2009, at the Garrett High School Performing Arts Center with a traditional funeral service to follow. Officiating will be Pastor Jeffrey Horn of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Garrett, with burial to follow in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett.

Memorials are to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church or the Garrett Middle School Athletic Department.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting: www.thomasfuneralhome.org

James Freed

KENDALLVILLE — James Alvin Freed, age 83, formerly of Kendallville and most recently of Sandusky, Ohio, died on Sunday, May 3, 2009, at the home of his daughter, Carolyn, in Sandusky.

Mr. Freed

Mr. Freed was born in Corunna in DeKalb County, Ind., on February 24, 1926, to Voyd and Dessie (Louthenizer) Freed.

He served his country from 1944-1947 in the United States Army during World War II.

He was a member of American Legion Post 86 of Kendallville.

He married June Hart on December 4, 1944, in Little Rock, Ark. She preceded his death on January 10, 2005.

Mr. Freed was a foreman with No-Sag in Kendallville and he retired from Liggett & Platt in Mason, Ohio, in 1988.

Survivors include two daughters, Carolyn Fox of Sandusky, Ohio, and Vickie (Jimmy) Scott of Kendallville; three grandchildren, Jody Yontz of Sandusky, Angela Spencer of Sandusky and James Scott of Helmer; four great-grandchildren, Christopher, Lauren, Katlyn and Morgan; and a sister, Ada Ruth Schleicher of Los Lunas, New Mexico.

He was also preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Buddy Freed; and a sister, Carol Jean Freed.

Visitation will be Friday, May 8, 2009, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Friday, May 8, 2009, at 2 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home.

Burial will be at Fairfield Center Cemetery in DeKalb County near Corunna.

Preferred memorials may be made to Stein Hospice of Sandusky or the Disabled American Veterans.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Paul Yentes

ANGOLA — Paul "Doug" Yentes, 50, died Sunday, May 3, 2009, in Angola.

Mr. Yentes

Mr. Yentes had been employed more than 20 years at Cooper Standard Automotive in Auburn.

He was a member of the Grace Methodist Church in Urbana, Ind.

He was born on Sept. 28, 1958, in Wabash to Paul and Donna (Monce) Yentes. He married Erlene Howard on Sept. 15, 1990, in Auburn. She survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Melissa Yentes of Columbia City and Hillary Yentes of Angola; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Kathleen and Mike Forbes of Rockford, Ill., LuAnn Yentes of Syracuse and Tami and Eric Overman of Wabash; a brother and sister-in-law, Jim and Suzie Yentes of Galveston; his mother, Donna Yentes of Urbana, Ind.; and two grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father on Oct. 18, 1993.

Services will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home at 108 S. West St., Angola

Calling will be from 3-7 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association.

Condolences may be sent online to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Dorothy Chew

ST. JOE — Dorothy M. Ortiz Chew, 73, of St. Joe died Monday, May 4, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was born February 6, 1936, in Willshire, Ohio, to Floyd and Carmen (Morales) Ortiz. Her parents have both passed away.

Mrs. Chew

Dorothy worked for over 30 years for Sechler's Pickles and then for over 10 years at Kray's Apple Orchard. She then worked part time at the Log Cabin in Auburn.

She married Robert R. Chew on September 19, 1959, in Hicksville, Ohio, and he survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Ramon and Nina Chew of Fort Wayne; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Rachael Chew of Spencerville, Renee and Bob Isham of Garrett and Rita and Kirk Jones of Fort Wayne; 10 grandchildren, Erik Chew, Kristin Chew, Misty Heyman, Stephanie Hildebrandt, Todd Heyman, Spc. Casey Chew, Cody Hildebrandt, Nikalas Isham, Chase Foster and Sydnee Isham; two stepgrandchildren, Christopher Jones and Colin Jones; six great-grandchildren; a brother, John Ortiz of Fort Wayne; and six sisters, Mary Razo of Decatur, Gloria Jasso of Antwerp, Ohio, Margaret Nieto of Rockdale, Texas, Hope Castillo of Hickville, Ohio, Juanita Gonzales of Port St. Lucie, Fla., and Carmin Garcia of Hicksville, Ohio.

She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Paul and Gilbert Ortiz, and four sisters, Christina Contrez, Rosie Fuentes, Josephine Navaro and Arbella Sanchez.

A Mass of Christian burial will be at 10 a.m. Friday, May 8, 2009, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn. Father Babasino Fernandez will officiate. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery at St. Joe.

Calling will be Thursday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 9 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn. A rosary will be recited at 6 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to the Hicksville Relay for Life.

DeWayne Lepley

ASHLEY — DeWayne S. "Deke" Lepley, 88, of Ashley died Monday, May 4, 2009, at Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

Mr. Lepley was a mechanic for G.C. Lepley Sales in Ashley for 40 years before retiring in 1980.

He was a U.S. Army veteran serving in World War II.

Mr. Lepley was a longtime member of the Ashley Volunteer Fire Department and he was a member of the Ashley United Methodist Church.

He was born June 26, 1920, in Hudson to Guy C. and Gladys (Spangler) Lepley. He married Helen D. Sharpe on Oct. 21, 1945, in Bryan, Ohio. She died March 11, 2005.

Surviving are a son, Richard D. Lepley of Ashley; three daughters, Elizabeth Farver of Butler, Pam Kolczynski of Ashley and Alice Lepley of Ashley; three brothers and three sisters-in-law, Bud G. Lepley of Ashley, Richard J. and Mary Lepley of Ashley, Jim Lepley of Ashley, Delora Lepley of Ashley and Violet Lepley of Hudson; four sisters and three brothers-in-law, Wanita and Chuck Tagtmeyer of Fremont, Joyce Meyers of Rocky River, Ohio, Karen and Gilbert Dilley of Auburn and Sharon and Jim Miller of Hudson; eight grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two grandsons, David Martin and Jason Lepley; and three brothers, Udell Lepley, Winford Lepley and Ted Lepley.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo. Pastor Don Wadkins will officiate. Burial will be in Circle Cemetery at Hudson.

Calling will be three hours prior to the service from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Ashley United Methodist Church.

Wayne Eckert

HELMER — Wayne H. Eckert, 89, of Helmer died Tuesday, May 5, 2009, at Shepherd of the Hill nursing home in Kendallville.

Mr. Eckert had resided in Helmer most of his life.

He had been a farmer and had worked for the Farm Bureau in Helmer for 20 years.

Mr. Eckert was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

He was a member of the Salem Center Presbyterian Church and had served as president of the Helmer District Sewer System.

Mr. Eckert had been a member of the Helmer Volunteer Fire Department since 1956 and had served as fire chief for 12 years.

He was born March 5, 1920, in Fairfield Township, DeKalb County, to Granville and Charlotte Elizabeth "Beth" (Bonbrake) Eckert. He married Anna Rose Butler on Feb. 15, 1943, in Hudson. She died April 25, 2008.

Surviving are two sons, Jerry W. Eckert of Houston, Texas, and Ned C. Eckert of Indianapolis; a brother, Eugene Eckert of Waterloo; two grandchildren, Mandi Marklin and Lian Aragon; and four great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Louis Eckert and Owen Eckert, and a sister, Mary Clingan.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson. Pastor Steven Eckert and Pastor Bill Lepley will officiate. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery near Corunna with military graveside services by Orland American Legion Post 423.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home, with an IVFA memorial service at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Memorials are to the Helmer Volunteer Fire Department or the Salem Center Presbyterian Church.

James Neuman

AUBURN — James David Neuman, 47, of Auburn died Tuesday, May 5, 2009, at Wesley Health Care.

He was born July 15, 1961, in Auburn, the son of James F. and Sally A. Neuman of Auburn.

He was a journeyman electrician at Eaton, a member of UAW 164, Emergency Response Team and an electrician committemen.

Mr. Neuman

He had his private pilots license and was an avid outdoorsman with a passion for hunting and fishing.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by a daughter, Jenna L. Neuman of Fort Wayne; and sisters, Karen (Dennis) Miller of Angola and Denise (Greg Kever) Kleeman of Auburn.

Funeral service is at 10 a.m. Saturday, with calling one hour prior to the service at Pinnington-McComb Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. The Rev. Robert Bell will officiate.

Calling will also be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Memorials are to UAW Local 164 Scholarship Fund.

Roger Laub

FORT WAYNE — Roger B. Laub, 84, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Butler died Tuesday, May 5, 2009, at the Town House Health Center in Fort Wayne.

He was born in Spencer Township in DeKalb County on July 1, 1924, to Claude and Grace (Blaker) Laub. They have both passed away.

Mr. Laub managed the Mobil Oil Company bulk plant from 1953 to 1977 and was president of Laub Auto Parts stores from 1973 to 1987.

He was a U.S. Army veteran.

He was a member of the Auburn First United Methodist Church, Forrest Lodge Butler No. 239, Fort Wayne Scottish Rite, Fort Wayne and Naples Florida Shrine Clubs, Butler American Legion Post No. 202 and the Butler Eagles.

He was an active member of the Butler Chamber of Commerce and past president and member of the Butler Rotary Club, past president and member of DeKalb Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, and past president and member of the former Greenhurst Country Club.

He married Dorothy Miser on December 8, 1945, in Waterloo and she survives in Fort Wayne.

He is also survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Kathryn and Gerald McNerney of Hamilton and Karen and David Lyons of Euless, Texas; four grandchildren, Jerry McNerney, Erin Whiting, Kristin Potter and Meghan Lyons; six great-grandchildren, Madison Whiting, Evan Whiting, Hannah Whiting, Joey McNerney, Jack McNerney and Kaitlyn Potter; a brother and sister-in-law, Frank and Marilyn Laub of St. Joe; and a brother-in-law, Edward Ginn of Franklin, Ind.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Fred, Leroy and Loren Laub, and a sister, Lanore Ginn.

Services will be 11 a.m. Saturday, May 9, 2009, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn. The Rev. Douglas Vogel will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling is from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, with a Masonic service at 7 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorials can be directed to Eastside Area Community Foundation, P.O. Box 395, Butler, IN 46721 or Shriner's Children's Hospital.

Former Kendallville business owner Norman 'Duke' Miller dies at age 74

ANGOLA — Norman K. "Duke" Miller, 74, of Angola and formerly of Sylvan Lake, Rome City, died Wednesday, May 6, 2009, at 4:35 p.m. in his residence.

He attended Concordia Military School in Fort Wayne through his junior year. His family moved to Kendallville, and he graduated in 1952 from Kendallville High School. After high school, Mr. Miller began his career working at International Harvester in Fort Wayne. In 1955, the Miller family built a show room and garage on U.S. 6, and named the business Miller Motors. Mr. Miller and his family owned and operated Miller's Restaurant, CMW Transport in Kendallville and Miller Motel.

Duke retired in 1990.

He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving from 1956 to 1958.

He had resided in Angola since 2003.

He enjoyed playing cards and games with his grandchildren. He was a very good vocalist, and loved the lake and boating.

Mr. Miller

He was born June 5, 1934, in Fort Wayne to Harold H. and Laura (Pettit) Miller. He was married March 12, 1988, in Las Vegas to Debra L. Moore.

Surviving are his wife, Debra L. (Moore) Miller of Angola; a stepdaughter and her husband, Tami and Jim Aaron of Angola; a daughter and son-in-law, Roxanne and Steve May of Louden, Tennessee; four sons and two daughters-in-law, Greg and Deb Miller of Kendallville; Terry Miller of Rome City; Danny and Patty Miller of Phoenix, Arizona; and James Miller of Ligonier; his grandchildren, including Tyler Miller, Nicholas Miller, Dustin Abbs, Kelcie Miller, Holly Miller, April May, Jewel May, Kenna Aaron and Kalli Aaron; a brother, David Miller of Rome City; and a special nephew, Kim Miller of Rome City.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Harold Miller and Jean Miller; and a sister, Gloria Miller.

Funeral services will be Saturday, May 9, 2009, at 6 p.m. in the Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 South State Street, Kendallville, with Pastor Bill Hambright of the Salem Center United Methodist Church officiating. Military services will be provided by Kendallville VFW Post 2749.

Visitation will be today, Friday, May 8, 2009, from 4 to 8 p.m. and one hour prior to the service on Saturday at the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com

Stephen Wildermuth

ANGOLA — Stephen Wolcott Wildermuth, 66, of Angola and formerly of Auburn died Wednesday, May 6, 2009, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mr. Wildermuth was a lifetime banker for more than 30 years.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran with a rank of Lieutenant JG, serving time in Iwakuni, Japan.

He was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity, American Legion, and the Auburn Lions Club.

He also loved the outdoors and was an avid fisherman.

He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Indiana University.

He was born Jan. 30, 1943, in Auburn to Jean M. and Carrie "Jeanne" (Felton) Wildermuth.

He is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Stacey J. and Matthew Thomas of Carmel and Deborah J. and Chip Nance of Auburn; two sons, Wade K. Wildermuth of Hamilton, and Ryan R. Wildermuth of Hamilton; one brother and sister-in-law, James and Carole Wildermuth of Goshen; and eight grandchildren, Kelsie A. Thomas, Kaitlyn A. Thomas, Trenton S. Thomas, Payton N. Wildermuth, Alison Lesch, Megan Lesch, Emilee Lesch and Kyle Lesch.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Services will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Al Black and Chaplain Tom Novey officiating. Burial will be in Lakeside Cemetery, Fremont.

Calling will be from 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the St. Joseph Institute of the Deaf.

David Campbell

SAUTEE, Ga. — David Harold Campbell, 41, of Sautee and formerly of Waterloo, Ind., died Monday, May 4, 2009, at the Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville, Ga.

Mr. Campbell

Mr. Campbell was a published poet.

He was born in Auburn, Ind., on Jan. 3, 1968, to Richard Gale Campbell and Linda Lou (Smith) Hamman. His father preceded his death in 1989 and his mother survives in Montpelier, Ohio.

He married Jody Spohn on May 2, 2007, in Ellijay, Ga. She survives in Sautee.

Also surviving are two daughters, Heather Lynn Campbell of Florida and Jaden Lynn Campbell of Sautee; two sons, Justin David Campbell of Fort Wayne and Lucas David Campbell of Sautee; two sisters, Debra and Duane McCoy of Waterloo and Cynthia and Duane Rowe of Pretty Lake; three brothers, Richard Jr. and Cheri Campbell of Bloomington, Daniel and Trisha Campbell of Butler and Joe and Letisha Campbell of Rome City; and many nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Mable (Bowman) Campbell in 1990 and Virgil Harold Campbell in 1970, and his maternal grandparents, Lillian (Beckwith) Smith in 2004 and Bill Smith in 1998.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Brimfield Revival Center with Pastor Quint Zimmerman officiating. Burial will be in Circle Cemetery in Hudson.

Visitation will be Saturday from 10-11 a.m. at Brimfield Revival Center in Brimfield.

Burial will be at Circle Cemetery in Hudson, Indiana. Pallbearers will be his brothers, Richard, Daniel, and Joseph Campbell, Jeffery Suttle Jr., Adam Zimmerman, Duane Rowe, Duane McCoy and Lee Collins.

Memorials are to the family.

Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville is in charge of arrangements.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com

Dolores Steinbacher

ALBION — Dolores K. "Dolly" Steinbacher, 92, of Garrett died at 7:15 a.m. Thursday, May 7, 2009, in Garrett.

Mrs. Steinbacher had lived in Noble County for 26 years prior to moving to Garrett.

She had worked for Montgomery Ward doing marking and checking for 15 years, retiring in 1980.

Mrs. Steinbacher was a member of the Garrett Nazarene Church.

She was born Feb. 15, 1917, in Cortland, Ohio, to John and Bessie (Boekeloo) Lakey. She married Charles L. Steinbacher on June 12, 1935, in Fort Wayne. He survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are a son, Robert Charles Steinbacher of Sebastian, Fla.; three daughters, Dolores and Gerald Hedges of Fort Wayne, Sharon and James Miller of Fort Wayne and Barbara and James Fahling of Georgia; 16 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; and 25 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, five brothers and two sisters.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Thomas Funeral Home, with Dr. William Moore officiating. Burial will be in Thorne Cemetery near Wolf Lake.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Church of God on Tillman Road.

Send a condolence or sign the online register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Henry Fore

SPENCERVILLE — Henry Fore, 83, of rural Spencerville died Wednesday, May 6, 2009, at his home.

Mr. Fore

Mr. Fore had retired as a maintenance man at Shellor-Globe in Grabill, Ind.

He was born March 31, 1926, in Wilton, Ky., to John and Hazel (Buckingham) Fore. He married Mary Points on Oct. 18, 1947, in California, Ohio. She survives.

Also surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Bobby and Nita Fore of Wilmington, N.C., Wayne and Elaine Fore of Fremont and Sunny and Laura Fore of Naples, Fla.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Judy and David Oneal of Butler and Debbie and Marion Saturday of Grabill; 15 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; a brother and sister-in-law, J.D. and Eileen Fore of Corbin, Ky.; and a sister, Lucille Pencer of Middleton, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers; two sisters; and two sons, James Fore and Billy Fore.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville. Burial will be in Leo Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Allen County Cancer Society.

THE EVENING STAR

May 8 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Roger Laub

FORT WAYNE — Roger B. Laub, 84, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Butler died Tuesday, May 5, 2009, at the Town House Health Center in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Laub

He was born in Spencer Township in DeKalb County on July 1, 1924, to Claude and Grace (Blaker) Laub. They have both passed away.

Mr. Laub managed the Mobil Oil Company bulk plant from 1953 to 1977 and was president of Laub Auto Parts stores from 1973 to 1987.

He was a U.S. Army veteran.

He was a member of the Auburn First United Methodist Church, Forrest Lodge Butler No. 239, Fort Wayne Scottish Rite, Fort Wayne and Naples Florida Shrine Clubs, Butler American Legion Post No. 202 and the Butler Eagles.

He was an active member of the Butler Chamber of Commerce and past president and member of the Butler Rotary Club, past president and member of DeKalb Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, and past president and member of the former Greenhurst Country Club.

He married Dorothy Miser on December 8, 1945, in Waterloo and she survives in Fort Wayne.

He is also survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Kathryn and Gerald McNerney of Hamilton and Karen and David Lyons of Euless, Texas; four grandchildren, Jerry McNerney, Erin Whiting, Kristin Potter and Meghan Lyons; six great-grandchildren, Madison Whiting, Evan Whiting, Hannah Whiting, Joey McNerney, Jack McNerney and Kaitlyn Potter; a brother and sister-in-law, Frank and Marilyn Laub of St. Joe; and a brother-in-law, Edward Ginn of Franklin, Ind.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Fred, Leroy and Loren Laub, and a sister, Lanore Ginn.

Services will be 11 a.m. Saturday, May 9, 2009, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn. The Rev. Douglas Vogel will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling is from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, with a Masonic service at 7 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorials can be directed to Eastside Area Community Foundation, P.O. Box 395, Butler, IN 46721 or Shriner's Children's Hospital.

Rozella Alwood

AUBURN — Rozella M. Alwood, 90, of Auburn died Friday, May 8, 2009, at her home in Auburn.

Mrs. Alwood worked for the former Auburn Rubber Co. for eight years. She had also managed the Value Dress Shop in Auburn for a number of years and then she worked for Sheller-Globe in Grabill before retiring in 1960.

She is a member of the Auburn Church of Christ.

She was born March 27, 1919, in Paulding, Ohio, to Levi and Agnes (Shull) Mercer. She married Guy Alwood on Feb. 6, 1938, in Butler. He died May 18, 2000.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Donald Colleen Alwood of Auburn and Ronald Alwood of Hudson; two daughters and sons-in-law, Jeannette and Phillip Banta of Ellington, Fla., and Shirley and Gene Link of Auburn; a brother, Thurman Mercer of Tennessee; a sister, Zora Gordin of Zenia, Ohio; seven grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a daughter, Carolyn Shannon; a granddaughter, Jackie Link; three brothers, Ernest Mercer, Carson Mercer and Clayton Mercer; and three sisters, Edith Turner, Pearl Derrow and Evelyn Crooks.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Auburn Church of Christ, with John Mercer and Wayne Michael officiating. Burial will be in Eddy Cemetery at Hamilton.

Calling will be from 5-8 p.m. Monday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home in Auburn, and also one hour prior to the service Tuesday at the church.

Memorials are to the Auburn Church of Christ.

Kenneth Miller

HARDENVILLE, Mo. — Kenneth Miller, 78, of Hardenville and formerly of Leo, Ind., died Saturday, May 2, 2009, at Select Speciality Hospital in Springfield, Mo.

Mr. Miller had been a member of the Sheriff's Department in Gainesville, Mo.

He had retired as a truck driver with Fruehauf Trailer Co. in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Mr. Miller served in the military for 2 1/2 years during the Korean War.

He was born May 16, 1930, in Garrett to Paul and Effie (Hilkey) Miller. He married Mary Von Behrens on Aug. 6, 1960. She survives in Hardenville.

Also surviving are his children, Connie Jean Hutter and Douglas Miller; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; a brother and sister-in-law, Jim and Sharon Miller of Hudson; and two sisters and a brother-in-law, Donna Northway of Sebastian, Fla., and Shirley and Robert Kugler of Hudson.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Betty Bowser.

A memorial service will be at 10 a.m. May 16 at Clinkingbeard Funeral Home in Gainesville.

Memorials are to the family in care of Mary Miller, HCI, Box 42, Hardenville, MO 65666.

Chris Madden

AUBURN — Chris Madden, 82, of Auburn died Friday, May 8, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

A memorial service will be 11 a.m. Monday at First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, 910 N. Indiana Ave., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 4-7 p.m. Sunday at the church.

Memorials may be directed to First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ or Auburn Church of Christ.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR

May 10 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Lucille Whitman: The 'eternal debutante'

BY MIKE MARTURELLO
mike@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — If there ever was always present belle of the ball, it would have to be Lucille Whitman, who died May 2 in Angola.

Whitman, who was 102, in writing a final remembrance of herself, said she "will be remembered fondly as the eternal debutante' of Angola. She devoted her life to women of all ages and to women from all walks of life, and she was the proof that a woman can be whatever she wants to be."

Strong-willed. Confident. A sharp dresser. Witty. An organizer. She had the ability to stay young, and even on her 100th birthday she wore a backless gown.

"Women should take care of themselves, stay busy and keep a positive attitude about everything from work to health," she said in a document she made available only upon her death.

"You know, we were talking about her the other day and we commented that when she passed on she probably had her make up on and her hair done up right," said Angola Mayor Dick Hickman.

"Quite honestly, she probably had her eyelashes and her diamonds right there," added Sharon Stroh, president and chief executive officer of the Steuben County Community Foundation, for which Whitman was active.

You name it and it probably could have been apt to describe Whitman. She was active in many causes, particularly if they were intended to help women. She, herself, was a rags to riches story.

Whitman

After she graduated from Brushy Prairie School in LaGrange County, she got married and had a daughter, Betty Lou. Her marriage didn't work out, yet she got a divorce at a time when that was not something one did. She moved in with her grandfather with $1.50 in her pocket. To make ends meet, she held down a number of jobs, working at a newsstand, washing dishes, scooping ice cream and as a cashier, to name a few.

Above the restaurant where she worked there was a beauty shop. In 1938, the owner, Maude Ritter, offered Whitman a shot at management, if she went to beauty college, which she did. By 1939, Whitman bought the shop on a land contract, beginning of her life in fashion.

"She became a business woman and became a community leader back when women didn't have those opportunities," Hickman said.

Over the next 50 years there were many changes to Whitman's business, Rainbow Beauty and Gifts. She offered women a place where they could achieve a total look through hair styling, makeup and clothing. The business grew to 15 employees and included fashion experts.

Eventually Whitman had a string of businesses and even her own beauty school. She was a presenter in national and international seminars on cosmetology and fashion. She served as an educator and consultant, traveling to such places as Africa, China, Mexico, Rome, Paris, Greece, London, Spain and the Caribbean. She hosted radio and television shows and was published in national magazines that covered fashion.

Whitman was at the forefront of the women's movement, but said it was important to keep in fashion.

"I believe in equal pay for equal work, but let's stay wife, mother and lady," Whitman once said. "Personal appearance is important to women in the workforce. It has a lot to do with how well they do. Women have to look and act the part. It's all part of the greater reality that women have to work harder at building respect than a man does. I believe that's what helped me to succeed. I'm not brighter than anyone else. I just worked harder."

And she was respected in the community for her drive.

"I was thinking about how she was a lady who was ahead of her time. You look back at the women's movement and she was out there living it," Hickman said.

While she owned businesses in Angola, Indianapolis and Danville, she was very giving to the community that gave so much to her, Angola.

"She just loved being in this community. She realized it gave her everything," Stroh said.

Whitman was a member of the Steuben County Business and Professional Women, founded the Women's Fund of the Community Foundation and was a member of the Steuben County Woman's Club. She started a continuing education program at Tri-State University that lasted 15 years.

"The very first time I met her I had been invited to speak at the Steuben County BPW meeting," Stroh said. "And afterwards I was introduced to her. And I thought, boy. I said to her, 'if I can only aspire to be you when I am 92.' She took my hand and she said, 'you just stay vivacious the rest of your life.' Nobody ever called me vivacious in my whole life."

After her career she remained active as a commentator for fashion shows, was a popular guest speaker and spent time mentoring girls.

Stroh called her a "slight woman with a big influence."

"Your body is your soul's house," Whitman once said. "Your eyes are its windows and your mouth is its door. Always have the curtains at the windows and the door painted … and be careful of what goes in and out."

Chris Madden

AUBURN — Chris Madden, 82, of Auburn died Friday, May 8, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Madden was a sales representative for Tri-State Memorials in Auburn for 10 years and then for Ley Monument Company in Avilla for eight years.

Mrs. Madden

She was a member of the First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ in Auburn for over 50 years and the Auburn Church of Christ.

She was born Sept. 7, 1926, in Auburn to Robert and Ada (Gray) Doub.

She married Loren Madden on July 21, 1945, in Bryan, Ohio, and he past away on March 31, 1979.

Surviving are one son and daughter-in-law, Wayne and Linda Madden of Auburn; two daughters and sons-in-law, Diane and Roger Jernigan of Auburn, and Debbie and Greg Carnahan of South Bend; one sister-in-law, Doris Daub of Auburn; and eight grandchildren and spouses, Jennifer and Michael O'Hear, Julia and Tim Babcock, Kelly Carnahan, Kristen Carnahan, Ryan and Megan Jernigan, Tyler Jernigan and Laurie Zink, Alex Carnahan, and Regan Carnahan; and six great grandchildren, Lauren and Daniel O'Hear, Logan Carnahan, Miles and Maxwell Christian Babcock, and Jackson Carnahan.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Calvin and Patricia Daub, and Paul Daub; and one sister and brother-in-law, Betty and George Wheeler.

A memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, 910 N. Indiana Ave, Auburn, with Dr. Robert Craig, Dr. Mitchell Kruse, and Rev. Stuart Kruse officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 4-7 p.m. Sunday at the First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, Auburn.

Memorials may be directed to the First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ or the Auburn Church of Christ.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Marie Haupt

FORT WAYNE — Marie E. Haupt, 78, of Fort Wayne, died Saturday May 9, 2009, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home of Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Haupt was born Jan. 30, 1931, in Auburn to Charles W. and Leona O. (Richards) Haupt.

She was a bookkeeper for most of her life, retiring in 2006.

She was a graduate of Spencerville High School class of 1949. She was a member of the St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne.

She is survived by one brother and sister-in-law, Dale W. and Joyce Haupt of Delton, Fla., two sisters and one brother-in-law, Rosie O. and Harold Laux of Hicksville, Ohio, and Anna Ruth Girton of Orlando, Fla.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and two brothers, Charles A. Haupt, and Lawrence W. Haupt.

Services will be 11 a.m. Monday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor Don Nord officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 10-11 a.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Ft. Wayne.

Matthew O'Connor

AUBURN — Matthew R. O'Connor, age 34, of Auburn, died unexpectedly on Saturday, May 9, 2009 at DuPont Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was born Jan. 28, 1975, in Fort Wayne, to Thomas and Patricia (Rosswurm) O'Connor Sr. They survive in Auburn.

Mr. O'Connor

He graduated from Bishop Dwenger High School in 1993. He married Lisa S. Hall on March 30, 1996. She survives in Auburn.

He worked as a pipe fitter and welder out of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 166.

He was a member of St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church and an executive board member of the Local 166.

Matthew was a loving and devoted husband and father, who enjoyed being outdoors and spending time with his family.

He is also survived by a daughter, Olivia, 12, and son, Evan, 7; four brothers and sisters-in-law, Thomas and Tabatha O'Connor Jr. of Indianapolis, Jason and Michele O'Connor of Grand Junction, Colo., Adam and Tonya O'Connor of Fort Wayne and William and Jenny O'Connor of Garrett; a sister and brother-in-law, Emily and Edward Gowgiel Sr. of Auburn; a grandmother, Muriel Rosswurm of New Haven; and grandparents John and Rita O'Connor of Fort Wayne; and 13 nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Monica O'Connor, and grandfather Harold Rosswurm.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett, with Fr. Andrew Nazareth officiating. Burial will follow in Cedar Creek Cemetery, Garrett.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, May 13 from 1-5 and 6-9 p.m. with a Rosary service to start at 6 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett.

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook visit thomasfuneral-home.org.

Helen Dennison

AUBURN — Helen L. Dennison, 82, of Auburn died Saturday, May 9, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

She was born in Auburn on Feb. 26, 1927, to Orvil and Ruth (Malone) Winebrenner and they have both passed away.

She was a homemaker. She was a member of the Auburn Church of Christ.

She married Clarence V. Dennison on May 6, 1945, in Garrett and he died April 27, 2001.

Surviving are two sons, Clarence Dennison Jr. of Fort Wayne and Richard Allen Dennison of Goodlettsville, Tenn.; six grandchildren, Amy Buchs of Waterloo, Lori Sexton of Waterloo, Wendi Sells of Waterloo, Hannah Dennison of Nashville, Tenn., Stephanie Benzinger of Fort Wayne and Toni Ott of Fort Wayne; seven great-grandchildren, Clare Sexton, Charlie Sexton, Abby Buchs, Becky Buchs, Nick Buchs, Sarah Sells and Anthony Jones; two brothers, Harold Winebrenner of Pine, Ariz., and Robert Winebrenner of Merced, Calif.; and a sister, Carol German of Champagne, Ill.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband; two sons, Larry Eugene Dennison and Donald Dewayne Dennison; two brothers, Ross and Jack Winebrenner; and four sisters, Josephine Acker, Esther Pfiffer, Dorothy Acker and Betty Kimmell.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, 2009, at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery, Auburn. Calling will be Tuesday from 5-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to the Heimach Center.

Lloyd Pinckney

AUBURN — Lloyd E. Pinckney, 84, of Auburn died Monday, May 11, 2009, at Canterbury Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Pinckney was a design draftsman and had worked for Phillips, Magnavox and ITT.

He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church.

He was born June 12, 1924, in Fremont, Neb., to John and Lillian Pinckney.

Survivors include his sons, Kenneth Pinckney of Duncan, Okla., and Wayne Pinckney of Auburn; a sister, Myrtle Bice of Bastian, Va.; and three grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and in 1999 by his wife, Ruthene.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1801 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Sunday at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St, Auburn, and one hour prior to services Monday at the church.

Due to allergies, the family asks that no flowers be sent to the funeral home. Memorials are to Trinity Lutheran Church.

Christine Brown

GARRETT — Christine R. Brown, 66, of Garrett died at 7:15 a.m. Monday, May 11, 2009, at her home.

Mrs. Brown had lived in Garrett from 1964-1989, before moving to Springfield, Ohio. She returned to Garrett in 2003.

She worked as a grinder at Ball Brass in Auburn for 15 years, retiring in 1989.

She was born March 23, 1943, in East Burnest, Ky., to Arthur and Wilma (Hibbard) Reid. She married James L. Brown on Nov. 5, 1960, in New Port, Ky., and he survives in Garrett.

Surviving are three daughters, Denise and Allen Green of Garrett, Tonya and Jerry Pearson of Middlebury and Janice and Andy Gonya of Garrett; a son, James A. Brown of Fort Wayne; 11 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; a sister, Lois Dryden, Sarasota, Fla.; and a brother, Paul Reid, Cincinnati, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers, Esmer, Gene and Anthony Reid, and a sister, Shirley Reid.

Calling will be from 4-7 p.m. Thursday at Thomas Funeral Home at Garrett. Graveside services will take place at 10 a.m. Friday at Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett.

Memorials are to St. Martin Healthcare, St. Martin's Soup Kitchen or the Community Care Food Pantry.

Send a condolence or sign the online register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Dr. Reggie Chorpenning

STURGIS — Dr. Reggie L. Chorpenning, age 62, of Sturgis, Mich., passed away peacefully at home Tuesday morning, May 12, 2009.

Dr. Chorpenning

He was born February 3, 1947, in Fort Wayne, Ind., a son to Jack and Gwenevere (Jenkins) Chorpenning.

Dr. Chorpenning graduated from Hamilton, Ind., High School with the class of 1965. He attended Tri-State University, International Business College and the National College of Chiropractic, graduating in 1971. On examinations, he was licensed to practice chiropractic in the states of Michigan, Iowa and Kentucky.

On May 18, 1968, in Butler, Ind., he was united in marriage to Cindy O. Wilson. Two sons, Jason and Ryan Chorpenning, were born of this union.

He and his family moved to Sturgis in November 1971 where he started his chiropractic practice and served the surrounding communities for 38 years.

Dr. Chorpenning was a member of his professional organizations, Past Exalted Ruler and Ritual Coach of Sturgis Lodge No. 1381 B.P.O.E., where he won several awards including All American Coach for national competition twice. He was also a member of the Sturgis Eagles, Meridian Sun-Eagle Lodge No. 49 F.& A.M., Sturgis Chapter No. 26 R.A.M., Columbia Commandery No.18 K.T., Saladin Shrine Temple A.A.O.N.M.S., and the Sturgis Shrine Club.

In his early years, he worked with his family where they traveled the county fair circuits with concession trailers producing and selling such confections as caramel corn, popcorn, candied apples, taffy candy sticks and taffy kisses, cotton candy, elephant ears, dogs on a stick, and lemonade. After meeting his wife, she also joined in the family business.

He enjoyed spending time with family, fishing, golfing, woodworking and traveling.

He also coached Little League baseball and youth soccer, played softball and bowled for several years.

Surviving are parents, Jack and Gwenevere Chorpenning; his loving wife of 41 years, Cindy; two sons, Jason Chorpenning of Sturgis and wife, Christine (Furtado), and grandsons, Matthew and Richard Furtado, and Ryan Chorpenning of Lansing, Mich., and wife, Robyn (Curnow), and grandson, Mason, and granddaughter, Molly; one sister, Corinne Houser and husband, Doug, of Waterloo, Ind.; his mother-in-law, Helen Wilson of Butler, Ind.; three sisters-in-law, Bonny (Ken) Dyson, Wendy (Rick) Spencer, and Ricky Houser; and several nieces and nephews.

Dr. Chorpenning was preceded in death by his father-in-law, R. Keith Wilson.

The family will receive friends and relatives from 6-8 p.m. Sunday and from 2-4 p.m., Monday at the Hackman Family Funeral Homes — Rosenberg Chapel — 807 E. Chicago Road, Sturgis, Mich. 49091.

An Elks service celebrating the life of Dr. Chorpenning will be held at 4 p.m. Monday at the funeral home by the Sturgis Elks Lodge 1381 Ritual Team.

Those wishing to make a memorial donation may consider the Elks National Foundation in care of Sturgis Elks 1381, 66200 Grey Lake Road, Sturgis, MI 49091 or the American Cancer Society. Envelopes are also available at the funeral home.

His obituary is also at www.hackmanfamilyfuneralhomes.com where personal messages of support may be left for the family.

Ralph Taylor

FORT WAYNE — Ralph E. Taylor, 61, of Fort Wayne passed away Monday, May 11, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Taylor

Born in Fort Wayne, he was a retired conservation lieutenant serving from 1973 to 2003.

He was area commander for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Law Enforcement Division, from 1985 to 2003. He was also an Allen County deputy coroner since 2003 and was a certified medico-legal death investigator.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, growing wildflowers, and a wide variety of other outdoor activities.

He was a tinkerer who was passionate about life and loved his family and wide circle of friends.

He developed the Allen County coroner's "Drive Alive" campaign, served on the Indiana state Lakes Management Work Group, and received the Sagamore of the Wabash Award in 2003.

He is survived by his wife, Cheryl K. Taylor of Fort Wayne; his father, Ralph E. Taylor Sr. of Fort Wayne; his mother, Leta M. Strong of Auburn; a son, Shane K. Taylor of Fort Wayne; a daughter, Debi K. (Daniel) Krabach of Fort Wayne; two sisters, Janet (Jeff) Emmons of Fort Wayne and Judine Taylor (Richard Pressman) of San Antonio, Texas; and three granddaughters, Stacey Budd of Pleasant Lake and Caitlin Krabach and Andrea Krabach, both of Fort Wayne.

Funeral service is at 10:30 a.m. Friday at D.O. McComb and Sons Pine Valley Park, 1320 E. Dupont Road, Fort Wayne, with Father Mark Gurtner officiating.

Calling will be from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. today and one hour prior to the service Friday at the funeral home.

Burial will be in Highland Park Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Drive Alive Campaign or Ralph E. Taylor Conservation Fund c/o Steuben County Community Foundation.

To sign the online guest book, go to www.mccombandsons.com.

Rose Graham

BUTLER — A memorial service for Rose Graham, 81, of Butler will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 30, at Butler United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Graham died Jan. 25, 2009, at Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

THE EVENING STAR

May 14 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Walter Donat

ROME CITY — Walter Edwin Donat, age 83, of Rome City, died on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne.

He was born in Kendallville on March 24, 1926, to the late Cleo Marion and Anna Gertrude (Thomas) Donat.

Mr. Donat

He graduated from Rome City High School in 1944 and served his country in the United States Army during WWII.

Mr. Donat was co-owner and operator of C.M. Donat and Sons Pepsi Distribution in Rome City for many years. He retired in January 1987.

He was a proud 50-year member of the American Legion Post 381 of Rome City.

Ed was an avid pilot since 1965. He flew commercial planes and was a flight instructor.

Mr. Donat was licensed for single- and twin-engine planes, as well as amphibian planes.

He was past president of the Rome City Town Board from 1966-77, past member of the Noble County Plan Commission, as well as serving on various other local boards.

He loved being at his home on Sylvan Lake in Rome City.

Survivors include two daughters, Rebecca and John Doan of The Villages, Florida, and Corinne and John Zuege of West Lafayette, Indiana; a son, Dennis Donat of Goshen; three grandchildren, Robert and Kirsten Doan of Gainesville, Fla., Kevin Donat of Goshen and Sam Zuege of West Lafayette; one great-granddaughter, Olivia Doan; two brothers, Herbert Donat of Waterloo and Larry and Sandy Donat of Rome City; and a sister, Doris and Russ Bailey of Muncie.

He was also preceded in death two brothers, Cleo Donat Jr. an Richard E. Donat.

Visitation will be today, Thursday, May 14, 2009, from 5-7 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Funeral services will also be today, Thursday, at 7 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home.

Officiating the funeral service will be Pastor Michael McKinney.

Private burial services will be Sunday at Orange Cemetery near Rome City. Honorary casketbearers will be members of the American Legion Post 381 of Rome City.

Memorials are to the Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society, 1205 Pleasant Point, Rome City, IN 46784.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR

May 16 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Longtime conservation officer James Wire dies at 92

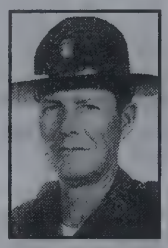
HOWE — James A. Wire, 92, of Howe died Thursday, May 14, 2009, at Miller's Merry Manor in LaGrange.

He was born on July 11, 1916, in Fort Wayne to Lloyd M. and Belle Parent (Garver) Wire. On Aug. 1, 1940, in Fort Wayne he married Gwendolyn "Babe" Parrish; Mrs. Wire preceded him in death on Sept. 7, 2003.

Jim was a conservation officer from 1949 until 1978, and served his 29-year career in LaGrange County. He performed his regular duties as conservation officer with integrity, and was active in conservation education statewide and conducted gun and water safety clinics, teaching at youth camps and speaking to civic organizations.

He built a collection of more than 5,000 color slides as well as much film footage that was used for departmental training movies. He was also active in acquiring new wildlife areas and developing the Curtis Creek Fish Hatchery in LaGrange Co.

As a result of his dedication, he was selected as State Wildlife Conservationist of the Year. In 1965 he was cited by President Lyndon B. Johnson as National Wildlife Conservationist of the Year, and in early 1966, he and Gwen traveled to Washington, DC where he was awarded for his achievements by First Lady, Lady Byrd Johnson. He was also a recipient of the Sagamore of the Wabash Award.



Mr. Wire

Jim loved the Lord and read his Bible with vigor until he could no longer read due to his diabetes and was a member of Brighton Chapel in Howe. It is a great comfort to his children to know that he and their mother are home together with the Lord.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Carolyn D. and William Jacobs of Woodburn; a son and daughter-in-law, James R. and Shirley Wire of Howe; four grandchildren, Debbie Duesler, Kathy Cossairt and Jeff Wire, all of Howe, and Becky Jacobs of Woodburn; six great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter; and a sister, Bonnie Northrop of Ann Arbor, Mich.

Preceding him in death besides his wife were a grandson, Zak William Jacobs on Sept. 27, 1984; a sister, Marjorie Miller; and a brother, Lloyd Robert Wire.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. at Brighton Chapel in Howe, with Revs. Jeremy Helmuth and Dwight Kauffman officiating. Burial will be in Brighton Cemetery in Howe.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 pm on Monday, May 18, 2009, at Fruripmay Funeral Home in LaGrange.

Memorials may be given to LaGrange County Parks Department.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.fruripmayfuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR

May 17 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Teacher touched many lives

BY SUE CARPENTER
suec@kpcnews.net

GARRETT — Nancy Weimer looks over stacks of cards her family received during her husband Ron's illness and following his death May 2 of esophageal cancer.

"Ron would tell me, 'I don't deserve all of this fuss. I have never been anything special. I am a teacher.' He didn't know how appreciated he was," she said.

Ron Weimer touched many lives in the area, having taught 36 years in DeKalb Central and Garrett schools, coaching track, basketball and football, and serving on the Garrett school board and as and elder at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Garrett.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Ron Weimer was said to be a firm but fair disciplinarian to his students and four sons. He and wife Nancy are shown with sons Dan and Dean, in front, and Dennis and David.

More than 850 friends, former students and players showed their appreciation by waiting over two hours to tell the family how much Mr. Weimer impacted their lives. Many more attended a service the following day in the high school auditorium commemorating his years as an educator.

When paying their respects to the family, several recalled Ron's firm discipline in the classroom. Three infractions stood out the most: tardiness, excuses for missing homework — and gum chewing.

"It's a rule in Mr. Weimer's class: After a certain number of warnings, you had to put your gum on your nose and stand in front of the class," Nancy said.

"All the students said — over and over — 'He may have been firm, but he was still my favorite teacher,'" she added.

In their condolences, former students conveyed how their former teacher and coach helped them become the people they are today.

"He cared about all the kids a lot — not only the star basketball player, but all of them. They had the same discipline as the rest."

It was the same as when he was a coach of football, basketball or track: You break the rules, you will be disciplined, she said.

"He was the boss," recalled youngest son Dean, who now teaches sixth-grade social studies at Garrett Middle School.

"Some students he touched quite literally," he said, referring to a time when paddling was allowed in schools.

Even Ron's son, Dennis, was not spared the rod when he showed up late one too many times in his father's classroom. And as with most parents, when he got paddled at school, he got it again when he went home, Nancy said.

"He was old-school if ever there was, and personally, I miss a lot of that," Dean remarked at the memorial service.

"It was easy being his son," Dr. Dan Weimer said — as long as you remembered Ron's basic rules.

Being up and ready for Sunday school was at the top of the list. If one of the boys wasn't able to go to church that morning, he was not allowed to enjoy other activities that same day.

Another basic was that when you started something, you didn't quit.

"Use your head" was one of his dad's favorite sayings, Dan said.

A former high school football player, Ron Weimer downplayed his importance to the 1957 Railroaders squad. However, he played a major role in winning a 1957 championship for Garrett, according to Dave Weimer. He went on to run track and play football at Manchester College before returning to marry his high school sweetheart in 1962.

Ron's first teaching job was at Waterloo Elementary School. He then moved on to the junior high in Auburn, which merged into the new DeKalb Central district. He later joined Garrett-Keyser-Butler schools, retiring in 1997.

As a teacher, Ron spent many summers reroofing area homes to provide for his wife and four sons. When they were old enough, sons Dave and Dennis were his assistants.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Ron Weimer played a significant role in a 1957 football championship for Garrett High School.

Shortly before his death, Ron asked Dave to take him for a ride in the car on what was to become his last outing.

"We drove around on a Saturday afternoon and saw all the roofs we had put down around town," Dave recalled.

Ron was a man of few words who neither complained nor talked much about his suffering, family members said.

"Dad gave us many blessings," said Dean. "He introduced us to God."

Ron told family members that he looked forward to a reunion with his son, Dennis, who died at age 23 in an auto accident, and with his brother, Roger.

"He only said he wanted to stay a bit longer to talk to people about God," Dean Weimer said.

THE EVENING STAR

May 17 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Raymond Morrow

BUTLER — Raymond E. Morrow, 63, of Butler died Friday, May 15, 2009, at Walker-Rowe Airport in rural Waterloo.

Mr. Morrow worked most of his life as truck driver, retiring from Cookie Carriers in Butler.

He was an avid antique collector, and in his spare time enjoyed running his flea market. He enjoyed riding his Harley-Davidson, but most of all loved spending time with his grandchildren.

He was born Feb. 20, 1946, to Earl Morrow and Delores (DeLong) Spencer. He married Janet Powers on March 17, 1964, in Butler and she survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Sherry Aldrich of Fort Wayne, and Sheila and Eric Burnett of Fort Wayne; a son-in-law, Bruce Everetts of Muncie; two sisters, Yulonda Girardot of Florida, and Penny Weeks of Georgia; four brothers, David Morrow of Butler, Lloyd Morrow of Hamilton, Roger Morrow of Waterloo, and Larry Morrow of Fremont; 10 grandchildren, Philip, Jackie, Andrew and Katie Everetts, all of Muncie, Eric, Nathan and Janelle Aldrich of Fort Wayne, and Sharayah Ruble, Mya Bolden, and Eryka Burnett, all of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a daughter, Shelly Everetts, a brother, Dallas Oberlin, and a sister, Edith Thiel.

Services will be 2 p.m. Wednesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Clare Jewell officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

THE EVENING STAR

May 18 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Butler mayor dies in crash

BY BOB BRALEY AND JEFF JONES
bobb@kpcnews.net
jeffj@kpcnews.net

PIONEER, Ohio — Butler Mayor Floyd "Butch" Coburn was killed in a motorcycle crash near the village of Pioneer in northwest Ohio Sunday afternoon.

Coburn, 65, was riding with a group of friends, all on motorcycles, traveling westbound on U.S. 20 just west of S.R. 15 at about 3:16 p.m., according to investigating officer Sgt. Elias Jimenez of the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

The group was planning a left turn to go to a motorcycle apparel shop, and Michael D. Wasson, 58, of Butler, swerved to avoid a motorcycle that was slowing, Jimenez said. Coburn failed to maintain assured clear distance, and Coburn's motorcycle struck Wasson's.

Coburn's 2005 Honda motorcycle went off the road and rolled, and he was ejected. He was pronounced dead at the scene, Jimenez said. Wasson was uninjured. Both men wore helmets.

Coburn was in the second year of his second term as mayor of Butler. Before that, he served as a city judge for 10 years.

Coburn

Coburn was a familiar site at Eastside Jr.-Sr. High School basketball games. He ran the scoreboard for the girls games and was the clock operator for boys games for many years.

News of Coburn's death spread quickly through the small DeKalb County city.

Council president Ron Walter said a Butler City Council meeting scheduled for tonight would still be held, but that meeting would be "very brief" in light of the circumstances.

Walter said he will remember Coburn as being a "real people person. That's the best definition I can think of for Butch. He was always available, and did a lot of other things than just being mayor."

MAYOR: *Last time mayor died in office was 1974*

FROM PAGE A1

Other council members said they will remember Coburn for the good things he did. "He enjoyed life. He loved kids. Anything that helped kids he was for it." said Tammy Davis, council member. "He's going to be missed; he was very well liked by everyone."

Ken Olin, council member said, "Mayor Coburn was very dedicated to the city. He did his best to be a very good mayor and we're going to miss him."

"I just can't believe it," Kendallville Mayor Suzanne Handshoe said Sunday evening.

"He was a very positive, spirited person. I really enjoyed his company."

Coburn and Handshoe were elected as first-term mayors in 2004, and attended the same Mayor's School.

According to Handshoe, Coburn was an active member in the Mayor's Round Table in northeastern Indiana. He attended the Christmas party for mayors which Handshoe hosted in Kendallville last December.

The last time a Butler mayor died in office was in 1974, when Robert Jones passed away.

Arrangements for Mr. Coburn are pending at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler.

THE EVENING STAR
May 19 2009 Auburn, Indiana

STAR FILE PHOTO

In November 2007, Butler Mayor Floyd "Butch" Coburn makes a phone call to deliver news of his re-election victory. His wife, Dozzy, left, and his "second mom," Marceline Davis of Auburn, congratulate him.

Butler mourns mayor

'He was everybody's grandpa'

BY JEFF JONES
jeffj@kpcnews.net

BUTLER — News of Mayor Floyd "Butch" Coburn's death spread quickly through the Butler community, after he died in a motorcycle accident Sunday afternoon near Pioneer, Ohio.

Monday morning, flags flew at half-mast in front of Butler City Hall and the Butler Police Department.

A somber mood prevailed at the Butler Eat'N Haus restaurant, a popular destination for Coburn, 64, his family and friends.

"The mayor's table," a round table in the corner of the smoking section, was situated so Coburn and his wife, Dozzy, could see and greet everyone who patronized the restaurant, according to waitress Lisa Langford.

On some occasions, restaurant staff members put together three tables to accommodate everyone who wanted to sit with Coburn.

"We just decided one day (to get a round table), because Butch's table kept getting bigger

Walter named acting mayor

BUTLER — Ron Walter will serve as Butler's acting mayor until a replacement for the late Floyd "Butch" Coburn can be found.

Walter, who serves as president of the Butler City Council, was appointed at Monday's council meeting. He has served on the council since 1992.

THE EVENING STAR

May 19 2009 Auburn, Indiana

MOURNS: *Mayor kept scorebook, clock for games*

FROM PAGE A1

and bigger," Langford explained.

It wasn't unusual for as many as 12 people to sit around the table at once. From 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. each morning, up to 20 people may have taken turns sitting at the "mayor's table."

"It's sad. It's unimaginable the loss," Langford said Monday.

"All the young kids high-fived him. You have to have love to give love. He was everybody's grandpa," Langford added. "He's family to everybody. We all feel a great loss … It's been nothing but tears all day long."

The restaurant even featured items Coburn had requested, such as a three-leg chicken dinner, corned beef hash, butter beans, chicken and rice soup, and red raspberry pie, according to Langford and Butler Eat'N Haus owner Robin Helbert.

"There's so many little things at the restaurant that are Butch … all these little things that remind you," Langford said.

Butler Common Council president Ron Walter said he will remember Coburn as being a "real people person — that's the best definition I can think of for Butch. He was always available and did a lot of other things than just being mayor."

Other council members said they will remember Coburn for the good things he did.

"He enjoyed life. He loved kids. Anything that helped kids. he was for it." Council member Tammy Davis said.

"He's going to be missed; he was very well liked by everyone."

Councilman Ken Olin said, "Mayor Coburn was very dedicated to the city. He did his best to be a very good mayor and we're going to miss him."

"He cared a lot about the city and making a lot of programs in the city move forward," added Councilman Eric Johnson.

"It was a profound and tragic loss for the community," Councilwoman Sue Moore said. "He will be missed."

Athletic director Aaron Willard doesn't know how long Coburn had kept the scorebook at girls basketball games or the clock at the boys basketball games. Whenever there was a game, though, Willard knew he could count on Coburn to be there.

"He was dependable," Willard said. "He loved doing it and loved being around the kids, not only at the varsity level, but the junior high games. I think he enjoyed the interaction with the kids and Eastside High School."

Since news of Coburn's death, Willard said he's received correspondence from several basketball officials.

"They all knew him," Willard said. "Every time there was a game, they knew him by name, and knew what he did.

"That's what strikes you how far-reaching it is when something like this happens. He's touched a lot of different people in a lot of different ways," Willard added.

"There's a lot of pillars in our community, and he was one of them. He would do anything for Eastside High School and the community of Butler. He'll be sorely missed."

ACTING: *Smaller cities are not required to conduct a caucus*

FROM PAGE A1

Council members observed a moment of silence in Coburn's memory. Coburn died in a motorcycle accident Sunday.

Walter

Third-class cities such as Butler are not required by law to have a caucus fill the mayor's vacancy, said city attorney Gerald McNerney.

Once the vacancy is certified by Marty Grimm, clerk of DeKalb Circuit Court, the council has 30 days to pick Coburn's replacement, McNerney explained.

The new mayor could come from the ranks of the City Council or from outside city government.

If a member of the council becomes the new mayor, then a Republican caucus would select the new council member, since all seats are held by members of that party, McNerney added.

THE EVENING STAR

May 19 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Floyd Coburn

BUTLER — Butler Mayor Floyd C. "Butch" Coburn, 64, of Butler died Sunday, May 17, 2009, near Pioneer, Ohio, from injuries he sustained in a traffic accident.

Mr. Coburn

Mr. Coburn had served as Butler's mayor for five years. Prior to that, he was the Butler City Judge for 10 years.

He has also worked for 22 years at Universal Tool and Stamping and for 13 years at Nucor Fastener.

Mr. Coburn was actively involved in Eastside High School athletics for more than 25 years as both a scorekeeper and clock operator.

He was a graduate of St. Joe High School.

Mr. Coburn was a member of the Butler Nazarene Church, Butler Eagles, Butler American Legion, Butler Rotary, Gold Wing Association, former member of Concord Fire Department and original member of the Butler unit of the DeKalb County EMS.

He was born Oct. 13, 1944, in Auburn to Kenneth and Zola (Wolford) Coburn. He married DeNeal "Dozzy" Brown on April 24, 1993, in Butler. She survives.

Also surviving are seven sons, Denny (Missy) Coburn of Defiance, Ohio, Noah Thacker of Fort Wayne, Mark Coburn of Butler, Bruce Coburn of Shelby, Ohio, Scott Coburn of Michigan City; Butch (Lisa) Coburn of Grover Hill, Ohio, and Ron (Chris) Baker of Butler; two daughters, Penny Coburn Harrison of Leo, Ind., and Sheila Coburn of Palm Springs, Calif.; 26 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Shirley Mack; and two sons, William Coburn and Gregory Thacker.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Eastside High School Auditorium, 603 E. Green St., Butler, with Pastor Paul Patton officiating. Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. Wednesday at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, and one hour prior to services at the auditorium on Thursday.

Memorials are to the Butler Nazarene Church or DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com

THE EVENING STAR
May 21 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Donald Opdycke

PLEASANT LAKE — Donald J. Opdycke, 89, of Pleasant Lake died Monday, May 18, 2009, Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Opdycke had been a supervisor at Dana Weatherhead in Angola and had retired in 1982 after 37 years of service. He had owned Opdycke's Indoor Horseshoe Courts.

He was a member of the Angola Assembly of God Church and Gideons International.

Mr. Opdycke was a U.S. Army veteran.

He was born June 25, 1919, in Hudson to Henry and Eva (Myers) Opdycke. He married Marian A. Coles on June 18, 1960. She survives in Pleasant Lake.

Also surviving are two sons, Dean and Liz Opdycke of Fremont and Randy and Karen Mills of Pleasant Lake; a daughter, Jean and Doug Dyson of Columbia City; 10 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Heyman and Floyd Opdycke; and three sisters, Addy Farrington, Vivian Koon and Mattie Opdycke.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Assembly of God Church in Angola with the Rev. Ron Moore officiating. Burial will be in Pleasant Lake Cemetery at Pleasant Lake.

Calling will be from 6-8 p.m. today at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola.

Memorials are to the Assembly of God Church or Gideons International.

THE EVENING STAR

May 22 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Butler's Mayor Laid To Rest

KARLY TEARNEY

An escort of dozens of motorcycles departs from Eastside High School for a procession through downtown Butler following a funeral for Mayor Floyd "Butch" Coburn. Coburn died Sunday in Pioneer, Ohio while on his way home from a motorcycle trip.

KARLY TEARNEY

Pastor Paul Patton of the Butler Church of the Nazarene blesses the motorcycles Thursday afternoon at Butler Cemetery.

Mayor Floyd "Butch" Coburn was laid to rest following a motorcycle motorcade from Eastside High School.

MAYOR: *Never complained about injury, cancer*

FROM PAGE A1

you weren't an employee, you were family," explained Butler Police Chief Jim Nichols. "Many cities have lost that small, hometown feel, but not Butler. It's more important now than ever to reach out and help each other.

"Rest easy my friend. Your work here is now complete."

Reading Psalm 23, Pastor Patton said it easily be could considered Coburn's psalm.

"Butler was his flock," Patton said. "He oversaw every aspect of this community.

"We must cope with life gracefully, and that's what Floyd 'Butch' Coburn did," Patton said.

Coburn overcame a serious leg injury several years ago that nearly cost him his life and left him in more pain than he would admit, Patton explained. While Coburn also waged a battle with cancer, "Never once did I hear him complain," the pastor added.

Coburn was an avenue for God to touch many lives, Patton said, adding, "This life isn't all there is. It's just training for something better."

THE EVENING STAR

May 22 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Mayor touched many lives

Died while doing what he loved best

BY JEFF JONES
jeffj@kpcnews.net

BUTLER — The Butler community bid goodbye to a friend Thursday.

Escorted by a motorcade of motorcycles, police cars and friends and family, Mayor Floyd "Butch" Coburn was laid to rest in Butler Cemetery.

Coburn died May 17 near Pioneer, Ohio, as he was returning from a motorcycle trip.

During an 11 a.m. service at Eastside High School's auditorium, it was noted Coburn was doing what he enjoyed most — eating and riding his motorcycle — on his final trip. The group Coburn was with was returning from Tony Packo's hot dog stand in Toledo when the fatal accident occurred on U.S. 20, just west of S.R. 15.

Coburn

The mayor's flower-covered casket sat at the foot of the stage as Pastor Paul Patton of the Butler Church of the Nazarene, accompanied by guitarist Jennifer Graves, led a gathering of hundreds in Coburn's favorite hymn, "Amazing Grace."

"Dad's passion was riding," son Mark Coburn said. "I never saw him without a bike. We'd always fight to see who was going to go (with him).

"My dad has touched a lot of lives," Coburn continued. "His love for kids started in the small town of St. Joe."

In a touching moment of a service filled with touching moments, the younger Coburn shared how he had grown closer to his father after "fading away" for several years.

"My wife Laurie pushed me," he said. "The last nine years, I've been closer to my dad than I've ever been."

Coburn read a poem, "Riding in the Wind," written by Butler resident Nancy Gerber, and thanked all the riders who stayed at the accident scene until family members could arrive.

Floyd "Butch" Coburn made time to keep the scorebook and clock at Eastside junior high and high school boys and girls basketball games for 25 years.

"The biggest thing our girls would remember is the gum," Eastside athletic director Aaron Willard said. Before each game, Coburn always made sure there was plenty available for the players.

"Some people might think it was just gum, but what Butch was doing was showing how much he cared," Willard stated.

Since news of Coburn's death spread, Willard has received many cards and e-mails from area basketball officials.

Official Rich Kraus wrote, "(Butch) was Eastside's greatest ambassador."

"All people mattered to Butch," according to boys basketball coach Scott Hudson.

"Butch will be greatly missed, but never forgotten," girls basketball coach Brett Freeman said.

"If you worked for Butch,

SEE MAYOR, PAGE A7

KARLY TEARNEY

Butler Police Chief Jim Nichols speaks to hundreds of friends and family during a funeral service for Butler Mayor Floyd "Butch" Coburn Thursday morning at Eastside High School. See more photos at dekalbstar.com.

Khloe Clark

KENDALLVILLE — Khloe London Clark, 8 months, of Kendallville, died on Tuesday, May 19, 2009, at Parkview Memorial Hospital, Fort Wayne.

She was born in Kendallville on Sept. 4, 2009, to Dustin Ryan Clark and Brystarr Nicole Harmon.

Khloe Clark

Survivors include her parents, Brystarr Harmon and Dustin Clark of Kendallville; her maternal grandparents, Robert and Melody Harmon of Avilla and Vickie Harmon of Kendallville; her paternal grandparents, Terry and Donna Davis of Rome City and Troy Clark of Albion; her maternal great-grandparents, Paul and Virginia Houlton of Kendallville, Ethel Goodman of Auburn, Chandler and Doris Terry of Rome City and David A. Miller of Greenville, S.C.; her paternal great-grandparents, Shirley Waltenberger of Kendallville, Terry and Freda Davis Sr. of Stroh; and Dorothy Clark of Logansport.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St., Kendallville, with Pastor Percy Young officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett. A dinner will follow the graveside service at American Legion Post 86 in Kendallville.

Calling will be from 9-11 a.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials may be made to the family.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Madalene Seidel

TOPEKA, Kan. — Madalene D.H. Seidel, 88, of Topeka, Kan., and formerly of Auburn, Ind., died Friday, May 22, 2009, at Lexington Park.

Among her survivors are a sister and brother-in-law, Mary Ellen and Bill Kennedy of Waterloo, Ind.

Memorial services will be held in Indiana.

Memorials are to Heart of America Hospice, 3715 SW 29th, Topeka, KS.

Send condolences online to www.DoveFuneralHome.com.

Henrietta Robbins

AUBURN — Henrietta L. Robbins, 95, of Angola and formerly of Auburn died Wednesday, May 20, 2009, at Lakeland Nursing Center in Angola.

No services are planned.

Burial will be in Tamarack Cemetery in DeKalb County.

Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services in Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Khloe Clark

KENDALLVILLE — Khloe London Clark, 8 months, of Kendallville, died on Tuesday, May 19, 2009, at Parkview Memorial Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Khloe Clark

She was born in Kendallville on Sept. 4, 2009, to Dustin Ryan Clark and Brystarr Nicole Harmon.

Survivors include her parents, Brystarr Harmon and Dustin Clark of Kendallville; two brothers, Tisyn Harmon and Jaden Clark, both at home; her maternal grandparents, Robert and Melody Harmon of Avilla and Vickie Harmon of Kendallville; her paternal grandparents, Terry and Donna Davis of Rome City and Troy Clark of Albion; her maternal great-grandparents, Paul and Virginia Houlton of Kendallville, Ethel Goodman of Auburn, Chandler and Doris Terry of Rome City and David A. Miller of Greenville, S.C.; her paternal great-grandparents, Shirley Waltenberger of Kendallville, Terry and Freda Davis Sr. of Stroh; Dorothy Clark of Logansport and Daisy Rugg of Kendallville.

Services will be at 11 a.m. today, Saturday, May 23, at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St., Kendallville, with Pastor Percy Young officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett. A dinner will follow the graveside service at American Legion Post 86 in Kendallville.

Calling will be from 9-11 a.m. today at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials may be made to the family.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com

Floyd Scott

AUBURN — Floyd M. Scott died May 20, 2009.

Floyd was born and raised at the family's lumber camp in Lady Smith, WI.

He moved to Auburn in 1931, graduated from McKinney H.S. in 1933, and took classes at Purdue. Subsequently he began working at Auburn Rubber where he met Alice Grogg who became his wife in 1939.

He later was a general foreman at Warner Gear and concluded his career as the president of Oren-Van Aman in Fort Wayne. He later served as an abrasives' consultant with Carborundum Corp.

He maintained residences in Auburn and Sebring, Florida.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years Alice; his older brother, Cletus Scott; a son and his wife, Douglas and Joy Scott; a daughter and her husband, Janice and Peter Atkin; six grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and eight great-great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his sisters, Beatrice Bickle and Arletta Walker, and a grandson, Charles Morr Jr.

Floyd was a longtime member of the Auburn Presbyterian Church, Greenhurst Golf Club, and the Elks, as well as shorter stints at several other service, social and political organizations.

Floyd had a wonderful repertoire of fine memories from his mother shooting wolves off their back porch, skiing to and from school with his brother from the lumber camp, traveling the country with Alice, and still playing nine holes of golf several times a week last summer.

Floyd was both grateful and gracious about life and is fondly remembered by all who knew him well. He lived a wonderful life.

Calling hours are 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, May 26, and the funeral at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 27, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn.

Memorials are to the Heimach Senior Center or the Auburn Presbyterian Church.

Lucas Emrick

PLEASANT LAKE — Lucas R. Emrick, 28, died late Thursday in a car crash in Steuben County.

Mr. Emrick was employed by Asphalt Drum Mixers in Huntertown. He was a 1999 graduate of Prairie Heights High School and 2004 graduate of Missouri Valley College. He loved his family and loved to fish, hunt, riding horses and rodeo competitions. He had many friends all over the country.

Mr. Emrick

He was born in Auburn on June 5, 1980, to Ralph A. and Diane L. (Walkup) Emrick. They survive in Angola.

Also surviving are his brother, Clint Emrick of Hudson; a sister and brother-in-law, Gina and Charlie Rasler of LaGrange; a nephew, Weston Rasler; an uncle, Mike Walkup of Florida; and an aunt, Beth Emrick of Angola.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Assembly of God Church, 1405 Williams St., Angola, with Pastor Ron Moore officiating. Burial will be in Circle Cemetery, Hudson.

Calling will be at the church Tuesday from 2-8 p.m. and Wednesday one hour prior to services.

Preferred memorials are to Indiana High School Rodeo College Scholarship Fund, c/o Lisa Colby, 18501 Springmill Road, Westfield, IN 46074, or to Assembly of God Church.

Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent to Johnson@bnin.net.

Hugh Griffin

ASHLEY — Hugh A. Griffin, 76, of Ashley died Friday at 9 p.m. at Miller's Merry Manor in LaGrange.

He worked as a carpenter and at the Garrett Telephone Co. for 20 years.

Mr. Griffin was a veteran of the U.S. Army during the Korean War and a member of Orland American Legion Post No. 423.

He was born in St. Joe on Jan. 15, 1933, to Russell and Loretta (Ziegler) Griffin.

Surviving are his former wife, Pat Griffin of Hudson; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Deborah and William Schiffli of Ashley, Brenda and Cletus Bontrager of LaGrange and Eulalia Days of Hudson; one son, Jess Griffin of Hudson; a half-brother, Ronnie Griffin of Florida; a half-sister, Betty Gustin of Hudson; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

There will be no services or calling.

Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

Madalene Seidel

TOPEKA, Kan. — Madalene D.H. Seidel, 88, of Topeka, Kan., died Friday, May 22, 2009, at Lexington Park.

She was a telephone operator at St. Francis Hospital.

She was born June 7, 1920, in Auburn as one of three daughters born to Stanley V. and Gertrude D. (Shull) Hull.

She married Walter C. Seidel, and they moved to Kansas following World War II.

Surviving are a sister and brother-in-law, Mary Ellen and Bill Kennedy of Waterloo; a daughter, Donna Seidel of Topeka, Kan.; a son, John C. Seidel of Conifer, Colo.; two grandsons, Steve and Daniel Seidel, both of Tulsa, Okla.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held in Indiana.

Memorial contributions may be made to Heart of America Hospice, 3715 SW 29th, Topeka, KS.

To leave a special message for the family online, visit DoveFuneralHome.com.

THE EVENING STAR

May 24 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Saalfrank experienced everything

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

LAKE JAMES — Harold "Salty" Saalfrank worked hard to live a good life. And, his family said, he loved every minute of it.

Saalfrank, 83, passed away on May 10. "He loved life, he loved his family," his wife, Maurine, said.

Saalfrank found success in a number of different fields. After leaving the Marine Corps following World War II, Saalfrank worked at the Zollner plant in Fort Wayne, then went into the upholstery business with his own shop, Robinwood Upholstery.

"He retired early, then he started into upholstery," his son, Hap, said. "He went to a class and learned upholstery, then he started in the basement, then the garage and then bought a commercial building."

Hap said his father actually had dropped out of high school to enlist in 1943, after football season ended. Maurine said the two were married after he left basic training.

"He really wasn't happy with the academics in school," she said. "So he told his mother he was going to go down to the recruiting office. She knew he was only 17 at the time, so she thought they wouldn't take him." The Marine recruiter had other ideas, however. "They knew he was going to be turning 18 in the next few days. So they told him, 'The next group is leaving tomorrow, since you'll turn 18 on the way to San Diego (Calif.). We'll swear you in when you get there.' So he called his mother from San Diego to tell him he was in the Marines." The couple, who dated in high school, were married that January in Memphis, Tenn., where Saalfrank was stationed.

While he was working in the upholstery business, Saalfrank got into building homes, building three houses, including his own, on Lake James, and two on Coldwater Lake in Michigan. "He could always make a living with his hands," Maurine said.

After he retired from business, Saalfrank kept up that work, buying a farm with his son, Mike, and his friend, Jim Broyles.

"We originally got it for hunting and for conservation," Mike said. "Then we built a pond, and we've planted close to 55,000 trees and stocked the pond with fish." The fish, he explained, came from a neighbor, who gave the three men permission to take a few fish to stock their pond. "We'd go over and fish his pond, and we'd take five-gallon buckets with us, and Salty would run the fish over to our pond in the buckets as we caught them."

Mike said his father would eventually spend nearly all of his free time at the farm with his friend, Bill Smith.

"The two of them would be out there nearly every day for 17 years, until Bill moved away," Mike said. "Bill and Salty were inseparable."

Marge Smith, Bill's wife, said the same.

"They spent nearly all of their free time together," Smith said. "Salty was Bill's best buddy, and Maurine is my best friend. There was never a dull moment with Salty. He was a lot of fun."

Saalfrank built a homemade pontoon boat. "He welded some hot water tanks together, and he had a friend with some conditioned pipe that he used for railings," Maurine said. "And he used the webbing from lawn chairs to keep the kids from falling out. It was one of the first unique pontoons on Lake James."

Later in life, Salty and Maurine spent a good deal of time traveling, including a cross-country train trip and wintering in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Harold Saalfrank, his family said, was a gregarious man who loved to travel and spend time with friends and family. Saalfrank is pictured with one of his 12 great-grandchildren, Spencer Castillo.

"I was surprised that when we went on a trip, he'd always be planning the next one," she said. "When he'd finish a trip, he'd always have the next one planned. He knew where he wanted to go next."

Being raised poor, Hap said, made his father want to experience all he could.

"They had to struggle to survive," he said. "I think he decided right then and there that that wasn't going to be his way of life. He was never afraid to take an adventure, and whatever there was to do he did himself."

Rick Bergstrom

AUBURN — Rick A. Bergstrom, 65, of Auburn died Sunday, May 24, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Mr. Bergstrom

Mr. Bergstrom was owner of Mel's Decorating Service and a member of NSRA.

He was born Jan. 19, 1944, in Kendallville to Falconer and Hilda Bergstrom. They are deceased.

Surviving are his wife, Melanie "Lanie" Bergstrom of Auburn; a daughter, Michelle "Shelly" Bergstrom of Auburn; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Janet Healy of Garrett and Vickie and Hank Zecca of Waterloo; and a brother-in-law, Jeff Parker of Waterloo.

Services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. Ed Grable officiating.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

A private burial for Mr. Bergstrom's cremated remains will take place at a later date in Embry Cemetery for family and close friends.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society or to the Bergstrom family to help defer medical costs.

The family would like a street rod procession after the service to the American Legion, where a celebration of Mr. Bergstrom's life will take place.

Annette Shumaker

AUBURN — Annette C. Shumaker, 47, of Auburn died Sunday, May 24, 2009, at her home in Auburn.

She was a former employee of W/M Employees Credit Union and was a member of the Auburn Elks Lodge.

She was born Oct. 27, 1961, in Auburn.

Surviving are her mother and stepfather, Margo and Victor Housel of Auburn; a daughter, Krysten Shumaker of Auburn; a brother, Brian Ort of Auburn; an uncle and aunt, Richard and Carrie Toy of Auburn; and her best friend, Michelle Grogg of Auburn.

She was preceded in death by her father, Charles Ort.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, with Ed Hollis officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Dorothy Martin

GARRETT — Dorothy E. Martin, 79, of Garrett died Saturday, May 23, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne.

There will be no services or calling.

Arrangements are by Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett.

Dolores Emerick

AUBURN — Dolores I. Emerick, 82, of Auburn died Tuesday, May 26, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Emerick worked for Cooper-Standard Automotive in Auburn for 25 years, retiring in 1986. She then worked at McDonald's in Auburn as a hostess for 15 years, retiring in 2004. She was currently working as a cook at the American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

Mrs. Emerick

She was a member of the New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo and also attended the Auburn Church of Christ. She also enjoyed line dancing three nights a week.

She was born April 5, 1927, in Corunna to Lawrence A. and Marvel M. (Zonker) Shultz.

She married Ernest Emerick on Jan. 30, 1945, in Fort Wayne. He preceded her in death on July 20, 1989.

Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Thomas and Rita Emerick of Auburn, Russell and Marjorie Emerick of Auburn, and Robert and Beverly Emerick of Auburn; two daughters and sons-in-law, Judy and Jim Lowe of Blythe, Calif., and Sally and Eugene Kessler of Auburn; 20 grandchildren; 45 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

She was preceded in death by a son, Victor Emerick; one sister, Virginia Deetz, and a great-grandson.

Services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating. Burial will be in Corunna Cemetery.

Calling will be Friday from 2 to 4 and 5 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Cancer Society or Parkview Hospice.

Billy Treesh

NEW HAVEN — Billy E. Treesh, 88, of New Haven died Wednesday, May 27, 2009, at New Haven Care and Rehabilitation Center.

Born in Auburn, he was the son of the late Peter and Ethel Treesh.

He was a member of New Haven United Methodist Church. He served his country in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He retired in 1981 from International Harvester after 41 years.

Surviving are his wife of 62 years, Marguerite; two daughters, Margaret Gillenwater of New Haven and Susan Treesh of Somerset, N.J.; a brother, Robert Treesh of Chicago, Ill.; three grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Graveside services will take place Saturday at 11 a.m. in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Memorials are to the Ronald McDonald House.

E. Harper & Son Funeral Home, 740 S.R. 930 E., New Haven, is in charge of arrangements.

Leland Oster

ANGOLA — Leland Oster, 91, of Angola died Tuesday, May 26, 2009, at Betz Nursing Home, Auburn.

Mr. Oster worked at Warner Gear for 36 years and was a member of the Waterloo-Ashley Masonic Lodge for more than 50 years.

He was born Jan. 24, 1918, to Elsworth and Mary (Clinghan) Oster.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Terry and Barbara Oster of Angola; six grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Corinne, in 2005, a daughter, Melanie Felger, a sister, Carrie George, and his parents.

Graveside services will be held at a later date in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Memorials are to the Ashley Masonic Lodge, P.O. Box 145, Ashley, IN 46705.

The Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, is in charge of arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR

May 28 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Louise Johnson Herbolsheimer

GALENA, Ohio — Louise King Johnson Herbolsheimer, 92, formerly of Auburn, died peacefully Wednesday, March 25, 2009, at home in Galena, Ohio. She is now with the Lord.

Mrs. Johnson Herbolsheimer

She was born July 31, 1916, in Mesa, Ariz., and grew up in the Southwest. After one year at the University of Arizona, she transferred to the University of New Mexico and graduated with distinction, receiving the first bachelor's degree in fine arts drama awarded by the university.

She married Frederick K.L. Johnson in 1941. They first lived in St. Louis, Mo. Auburn was home from 1954 to 1962. She returned to Auburn from Kenilworth, Ill., after Fred died in 1970.

She married Bruce Herbolsheimer of Auburn in 1975. He preceded her in death in 1977. She remained in Auburn until she moved in May 2005, to live with her son, Fred (Karen) Johnson, first in Ann Arbor, Mich., and then in Galena, Ohio.

Louise was choir director at the Auburn Presbyterian Church for a number of years. She enjoyed and worked at the Eckhart Public Library. She helped start Friends of the Library in Auburn and was its first president. Auburn Improvement Association, Kenwigs literary club, Habanera Club and bridge clubs were some of her interests. Louise was active in Delta Gamma Sorority Alumnae and held local and national positions. She worked to fight blindness through glaucoma testing and raised funds to support schools for the blind. She showed concern for the environment all of her life and was a giving member of numerous conservation organizations.

Louise was also preceded in death by her brother, Rex King Jr., and her parents, Rexford Newton King and Hazel Heaton King.

Left with great legacies from their mother are her children, Marie "Mimi" L. Johnson of Chicago, Ill., Frederick "Johnny" K. Johnson and his wife Karen, and Elizabeth "Beth" Johnson Busch of Leo. She loved and blessed her eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will take place Saturday at 2 p.m. in the chapel at the Auburn Presbyterian Church.

Memorials are to the Eckhart Public Library, Auburn, and Home Reach Hospice, 7708 Green Meadows Drive, Suite D, Lewis Center, OH 43033.

THE EVENING STAR

May 29 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Gene Wilson

AUBURN — Gene M. Wilson, 83, of Auburn, died Wednesday, May 27, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Wilson

He was a retired farmer and had worked as a material handler at Stanadyne and as a rural paper carrier with The Evening Star for more than four years.

He was a member and deacon at the Auburn Church of Christ, a former member of the Dairy Association and an avid high school basketball fan.

He was born April 14, 1926, in Auburn to Merril and Ione Wilson and was a 1926 graduate of McIntosh High School.

Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Miriam L. Wilson of Auburn; a son, Edwin Wilson of Auburn; three daughters, Linda Cobb-Wirshing of Murfreesboro, Tenn., Norma Lemmon of Auburn and Joyce Gengnagel of Butler; a sister, Nola Girardot of Bryan, Ohio; 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Auburn Church of Christ, 208 W. Eighteenth St., Auburn, with Joe Heins officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, and one hour prior to services Saturday at the church.

Memorials are to the Auburn Church of Christ bus fund.

Frances Kearns

LAOTTO — After a full and adventurous life, Frances Patrick Wyatt Kearns passed away peacefully in her sleep on May 27, 2009.

Mrs. Kearns

Born on Jan. 19, 1914, in Brisbane, Australia, she made the world her home.

An avid traveler and explorer, her lifelong curiosity resulted in a wealth of knowledge.

Graduating from Queensland Teachers' College, she enthusiastically passed that love of learning onto her students in Mackay and Auburn.

Her passion of travel and her devotion to her family are chronicled in loving detail in her many scrapbooks and journals.

A patriotic Australian, the rugged beauty and wild nature of her homeland were held in the highest reverence. However, after meeting the love of her life, the handsome G.I. Joseph Charles Kearns during World War II, the proud war bride embraced the United States of America as her second home.

The young couple settled on the family farm, Corroboree Farm in LaOtto, Ind., which she soon transformed into a gardener's paradise and a loving family home, although she never stopped making trips back to her cherished Australia.

She spent the latter years of life traveling between the homes of her offspring in Chester, Conn., Mackay, Queensland, Mono Centre, Ontario, and LaCresent, Minn. Devout member of the Church of England, Master of Education (Saint Francis College, Fort Wayne), teacher at East Auburn Elementary School, horticulturalist, nature lover, chronicler, artist, friend, free spirit, Scrabble master, crossword aficionado and Belle of the Ball, Mrs. Joseph C. Kearns loved most of all to laugh.

Predeceased by beloved husband, Joseph Charles Kearns, cherished parents Frances Elizabeth Clark Wyatt and Henry John Wyatt, and brother John Humphrey Hector Wyatt.

Mother to Joseph Patrick Wyatt Kearns, Frances Cosette Leonore Pathak, Humphrey Charles Howard Kearns and Dr. Christopher John Clark Kearns; mother-in-law to Rebecca Julin Kearns; and grandmother to Dr. Elizabeth Jane Pathak, Frances Alexandra Pathak, Noah Julin Kearns and his wife, Amy, and Charly Joseph Kearns, she will be sadly missed and lovingly remembered.

A memorial will be held in Garrett, Ind., in July.

"We can't live in the past anymore. The future is foreboding, so I just intend to get, and cause as many laughs as I can." — Frances Patrick Wyatt Kearns 1914-2009

Carolyn Cherry

FORT WAYNE — Carolyn Sue Cherry, 75, went to her heavenly home Thursday, May 28, 2009.

Born in Kendallville, she worked as a foreperson with Magnavox for 27 years, retiring in 1991. She was a member of Magnavox Management and Foreman's Clubs, a longtime volunteer at Turnstone and a personal friend of Serenity House.

Mrs. Cherry

She is survived by her children, Christy S. (Paul) Albright Doeden of Northville, Mich., Craig S. (Judi) Cherry of Richardson, Texas, and Caril S. (David) Lucas of Fort Wayne; brother, Gene Casebere of St. Joe; sister, Nancy L. Casebere of Hicksville, Ohio; nine grandchildren, Canaan, Lily, Lyla, Lola, Lana, Nicole, Mark, Jordan, and Dylan.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her parents, Raymond H. and Genevieve E. Casebere; and friend, Harold Farrell.

Memorial service is 6 p.m. Sunday, June 7, at D.O. McComb and Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Road, with calling from 1 to 5 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the Turnstone Center or Serenity House-Auburn.

THE EVENING STAR

May 31 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Former Auburn resident loved beauty

BY JENNY KOBIELA-MONDOR
jennyk@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Louise King Johnson Herbolsheimer had a variety of interests, but they all came back to her appreciation of the beauty of life, said her daughter, Beth Busch.

Herbolsheimer, a longtime Auburn resident, died March 25 in Galena, Ohio, where she lived with her son, Fred, and his wife, Karen. She was 92.

"She just had a love for beauty," Busch said. "She showed us that beauty comes in all kinds of ways. She wasn't locked into one viewpoint."

Herbolsheimer had a deep admiration for the American Southwest. She was born in Mesa, Ariz., to Rexford Newton and Hazel Heaton King.

"She had a love for conservation and for the land and all, because her father was a botany major and then a forestry major, and he was head of soil conservation in the Southwest territory, and she grew up having that love and care of the environment," Busch said. "She was never out there really vocal, publicly, but she gave money to things, and if you knew her, you knew she had that love of the beauty, the creation."

Herbolsheimer continued to travel back to the Southwest nearly every year throughout her life.

"She never lost her love for that part of the country," Busch said.

She also shared stories with her friends, including Pamela Scranton of Auburn, who was in the Kenwigs literary club with Herbolsheimer.

"I loved listening about the Southwest," Scranton said. "That was her heritage. That's where she was from."

But Herbolsheimer wasn't only passionate about the land — she also enjoyed fine arts.

"She just had a love for beauty, and that was shown in her love for music, all kinds of music, and the written word and art and dance and drama," Busch said.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Former Auburn resident Louise King Johnson Herbolsheimer relaxes in the La Fonda Hotel in Sante Fe, N.M., in May 2007. She died March 25 at the age of 92.

She shared her appreciation for a variety of music and art with her children, Busch said.

"We grew up observing ballet and hearing a little opera and classical, and at the same time going out West and seeing Native American children dancing in bright costumes to the sound of drums," Busch said. "We just had such a contrast. We'd eat off Haviland china, but we had wooden Kachina dolls from the Hopi Indian. It was just a real blend of different sorts of cultural things."

Busch said she especially remembers her mother playing the piano as Busch sang Rodgers & Hammerstein songs.

"She would accompany me, and it must have been hilarious when I was little, belting out 'Bali H'ai' and songs from 'Carousel' and all those musicals," Busch said.

Herbolsheimer spent two summers at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., as a teenager, participating in a drama program. She attended University of Arizona in Tucson for a year before transferring to the University of New Mexico, where she received the university's first Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with a drama major and minors in music and English.

She spent a year teaching Navajo children in an Albuquerque school before marrying her first husband, Fred Johnson, and moving to St. Louis. They moved to Auburn in 1954, when Fred took a job with Borg-Warner. They moved to Illinois in 1962, and after Fred's death in 1970, she moved back to Auburn. She married Bruce Herbolsheimer in 1975, and he died in 1977.

Mrs. Herbolsheimer attended the Auburn Presbyterian Church and shared her musical gifts as a choir director there. She also was a part of a dance group in Auburn, Scranton said.

Herbolsheimer also enjoyed reading. She helped form and was the first president of the Friends of the Eckhart Public Library and volunteered at the library for years. She was a member of the Kenwigs literary club, a group that read and discussed books, and especially enjoyed classic books.

"I didn't realize until I was grown up that it was slightly unusual to have read all those classic books," Busch said. "She was always sad that people weren't reading those."

THE EVENING STAR

May 31 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Thomas Clark

ASHLEY — Thomas R. Clark, 43, of Ashley died Thursday, May 28, 2009, at his home.

He was born in Kendallville on Oct. 4, 1965.

He was a shipping clerk at Vestil in Angola. He was an avid NASCAR fan and loved the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team. He loved spending time with his son, Tyler, who was the love of his life. He was a 1983 graduate of DeKalb High School.

He is survived by his beloved son, Tyler Ray Clark of Ashley; two sisters and a brother-in-law Cindy and Jim Carper of Wolcottville, and Valerie Pinerio and companion Ron Shoudel of Ashley; special nieces and nephews Sara and Matt Ring, Brittney Pinerio and Brad and Eric Carper.

He was preceded in death by his father, Ralph W. Clark, and grandparents Lawrence and Edith Firestone and Thomas Clark.

Services are at 1 p.m. Monday at Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson, with calling two hours prior to the services. Rev. Craig Burkholder will officiate.

Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery in Corunna.

Memorials to benefit Tyler Ray Clark, care of Farmers State Bank P.O. Box 40, Ashley, IN 46705.

Condolences to Johnson@bnin.net.

Wayne Truelove Sr.

WATERLOO — Wayne Earl Truelove Sr., 72, of Waterloo died Saturday May 30, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Ft. Wayne.

Mr. Truelove worked for the Northern Indiana Fuel & Light Company in Auburn for 25 years, retiring in 1998.

Mr. Truelove

He was born Aug. 3, 1936, in Garrett to Chester and Thelma (Darrow) Truelove.

He married Nora Barger on May 19, 1965, in Auburn, and she survives in Waterloo.

Surviving are eight sons and daughters-in-law, Jim Truelove of Kendallville, Dave and Chris Truelove of Butler, Rick and Sheryl Truelove of Waterloo, Randy Truelove of Garrett, Steven Truelove of Butler, Barry Truelove of Waterloo, Wayne Truelove Jr. of Waterloo, Garrick Truelove of Waterloo; one daughter and son-in-law, Paula and Danny Livergood of Waterloo; 20 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren and two sisters, Betty Woods of Auburn, and Maxine householder of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Mark Truelove who died Nov. 7, 1983; and one grandson.

Services will be 2 p.m. Thursday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in Avilla Cemetery.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Wednesday and one hour prior to the funeral service Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials mav be directed to the family in care of Nora Truelove.

Frances Charlton

BUTLER — Frances Isabelle Charlton, 90, of Butler died Sunday May 31, 2009, at Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

Mrs. Charlton was a homemaker. She was a member of the Gospel Lighthouse in Kendallville.

She was born Oct. 19, 1918, in Ohio to William and Ethel (Donaldson) Maxwell.

She married Edman Woodrow Charlton on July 5, 1944 and he passed away May 6, 2005.

Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, William and Rosie Fagan of Yoder, Frank and Ann Charlton of Fremont, and Herbert and Betty Charlton of Edgerton, Ohio; three daughters, Betty Sale of Butler, Brenda Maxfield of Auburn, and Mary Charlton of Kendallville; 20 grandchildren and 50 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two daughters, Dorothy Sue Klotz, and Margaret Ann Charlton; two sisters and three brothers.

Services will be 12 p.m. Wednesday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Pastor Zaundra Hicks officiating. Burial will be in Corunna Cemetery.

Calling will be from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Brenda Maxfield.

Izola McMillen

GARRETT — Izola M. (Conrad) McMillen, age 92 of Garrett, died at 4:10 a.m. Sunday, May 31, 2009 at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mrs. McMillen

She was born May 10, 1917 in Noble County, Indiana to Edgar Earl and Izola E, (Ridinger) Hicks. They preceded her in death.

She married Delbert E. Conrad on June 10, 1937 in Plymouth, Indiana, and he died on May 10, 1974.

She married John D. McMillen on May 14, 1977 and he died in Sept. 1979.

She was a homemaker and a member of the County Line Church of God of rural Auburn.

She is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Glema and George Klinger of Crooked Lake, Angola, and Joyce and Herb Ohlwine of Churubusco; three sons and daughters-in-law, Phillip and Kathie Conrad of Garrett, Ronald and Penny Conrad of Corunna and Allan and Karen (Kate) Conrad of Elkhart; a sister, Adartha Minegar of Elkhart; two step-daughters, Sandra Kovaleski and Mary Jo Harger; 15 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, six great-great grandchildren and several stepgrandchildren, stepgreat-grandchildren and stepgreat-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by both husbands; a stepson, John D. McMillen Jr.; and two sisters, Bonnia V. Wade and Vera Haslett.

The services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 3, 2009 at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. Officiating will be Rev. Alan H. Black. Burial will follow in Embrey Cemetery of rural Garrett.

Visitation will be Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Wednesday from 9-10 a.m. prior to the service in the funeral home.

Memorials are to Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting thomasfuneralhome.org

Betty Wells

PLEASANT LAKE — Betty L. Wells, 77, of Pleasant Lake died Sunday, May 31, 2009, at Shepherd of the Hill nursing home in Kendallville.

She was born Sept. 14, 1931, in Auburn to William and Sylvia Wells.

Ms. Wells

She enjoyed gardening and playing her violin and piano.

She was a member of Freedom to Worship Church of God.

Survivors include daughters, Sue (Gordon) Patton of Avilla and Mary (Dave) Eicher of Hicksville; sons, James Refner of Pleasant Lake and Greg Refner of Ashley; a sister, Bernice Jackson of Pleasant Lake; a half sister, Virginia Freeman of Auburn; grandchildren, Nicole (Joshua) Walters of Hicksville, Megan (Nicholas) Traxler of Antwerp and Bridget Eicher of Hicksville; stepgrandchildren, Timothy Patton of Cape Canaveral, Fla., Daniel Patton of Avilla and Teresa (Noah) Jewel of Fort Wayne; great-grandchildren, Ethan Walters and Jarod Traxler; five stepgreat-grandchildren; and two stepgreat-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Lewis Wells; sisters, Velma Wells and Judy Kessler; and a grandson, Shane Kaiser.

Funeral service will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main Street, Auburn, with Pastor Joe Freeman officiating.

Visitation will be Wednesday from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home and one hour prior to services.

Donald Rothstein

WATERLOO — Donald Rothstein, 73, of Waterloo and formerly of Fort Wayne died Sunday, May 31, 2009, at his home.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Catholic Cemetery, 3500 Lake Ave., Fort Wayne, with Father Dave Carkenord of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Waterloo officiating.

Memorials are to the Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Indiana, P.O. Box 13611, Fort Wayne, IN 46865.

Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent to www.sheetsandchilds.net.

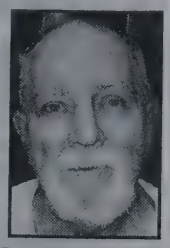
Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett.

Memorials are to the National Alzheimer's Association.

Marvin Woodcock

KENDALLVILLE — Marvin Eugene Woodcock, 72, of Kendallville died on Saturday, May 30, 2009, at Parkview Memorial Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was employed at International Harvester in Fort Wayne in 1959 and later with Navistar in Springfield, Ohio, before retiring in 1989 after 30 years of service.



Mr. Woodcock

After he graduated from Auburn High School in 1955, he entered the United States Air Force and served his country from 1955-1959.

Mr. Woodcock was born in Garrett, Ind., on Feb. 5, 1937, to Alfred Edwin and Alma Louise (Stoll) Woodcock.

Surviving are three sons, Donald and Lisa Woodcock of Denver, Colo., Ralph Woodcock of Chandler, Ariz., and Neal and Ginger Woodcock of Northglenn, Colo.; two daughters, Nila and Willie Soliz of Mesa, Ariz., and Pamela Gilkey and her companion, Gary Vermillion, both of Athens, Ohio; 14 grandchildren; five sisters, Carolyn and Dale Healy of Auburn, Gloria and Bill Howe of Auburn, Linda Kapp of Auburn, Marjorie Hecht and her companion, James Koegel, both of Fort Wayne, and Connie Sue and Lynn Carper of Auburn; two brothers, Glen Woodcock of Churubusco and Thomas Woodcock of Fort Wayne; and special friend, Diane Ley of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three sons, DeWayne, Rex and Patrick Woodcock; and a granddaughter, Laura Beasley.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville. Burial, with full military honors, will be at Marion National Cemetery in Marion.

Calling will be from 10-11 a.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com

James Galligher

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. — James L. "Jimmy" Galligher, 61, of Grand Junction died at 11:55 p.m. Saturday, May 23, 2009, in Grand Junction.

Mr. Galligher was a 1965 graduate of Auburn High School in Auburn, Ind.

He served in the United States Marine Corps from February 1966 through November 1969 and saw duty in Vietnam. He received several medals including multiple awards for the Good Conduct Medal.

He was born June 22, 1947, in Indianapolis, Ind., to Donald W. Galligher Sr. and Patricia J. (Cuney) Galligher. They survive in Auburn.

Also surviving are his children, Michele (Galligher) O'Connor of Grand Junction, Tate Galligher of Kendallville, Ind., and Katrina Galligher of Grand Junction; four grandchildren; brothers, David and Peggy Galligher of Auburn, Ind., Jeffrey and Tina Galligher and Gary Galligher, all of Waterloo, Ind., and Daniel and Shannon Galligher of Auburn; a sister, Cyndi Galligher of Auburn; several nieces and nephews; two uncles; and four aunts.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Donald Galligher Jr.; a niece, Jenny Galligher; and an uncle.

A memorial service will be held at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 13, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn.

Memorials are to the donor's choice.

Russell Hogan

ANGOLA — Russell R. Hogan, 66, of Angola died Monday, June 1, 2009, at his home in rural Angola.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Al Black officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the family.

Nonny Morse

GARRETT — Nonny Morse, 96, of Garrett died Sunday, May 31, 2009, at Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

There will be no services.

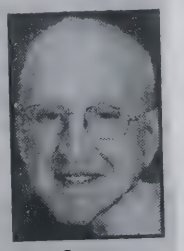
Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett.

Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, is in charge of arrangements.

Harold Carr

AUBURN — Harold R. "Curly" Carr, 73, died Wednesday morning, June 3, 2009, at his home in Auburn with his family at his side.

Curly worked at Rieke Corp. as a tool and die maker, retiring in 1997. After retirement he drove for Ben Davis Chevrolet of Auburn.



Mr. Carr

He graduated from Butler High School where he played on the basketball team that won the county championship 1953-1954.

Curly was a Little League basketball coach and served as the Junior Achievement counselor for Rieke Corp.

He was a member of Auburn First United Methodist Church and the Auburn Kiwanis Club.

He enjoyed watching NASCAR and rooted for the No. 9 car, first with driver Bill Elliot and then with driver Kasey Kahne.

He was born August 7, 1935, in Butler to Huber C. and Frances (Smith) Carr. They have both passed away. He married Marilyn J. Kail on September 9, 1956, in the United Methodist Church in Auburn. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Jim and Andi Carr of Coldwater, Mich., and Richard A. Carr and his companion, Michelle Mulholland, of St. Joe; five daughters and four sons-in-law, Alicia and Kerry Oster of Garrett, Ann and Sean Koskie of Auburn, Susan Carr of Auburn, Jennifer and Tim Baker of Waterloo and Nancy and Tom Sturgis of Garrett; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Jane and Robert Biddle of Garrett and Jean and Wilbur Camp of St. Joe.

He has 37 grandchildren and 42 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Jimmy Carr; a sister, Ruth Sipe; and four great-grandchildren, Dylann Lampman, Michael King, Alex James Souder and McKinnley Garrett.

Funeral services are at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 6, 2009, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 2 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to the American Cancer Society or Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home of Fort Wayne.

Russell Hogan

ANGOLA — Russell R. Hogan, 66, died Monday, June 1, 2009, at his home in rural Angola.

Mr. Hogan was a truck driver for National Serv-All for 32 years, retiring in 2004.

He was born Jan. 24, 1943, in Auburn to Lewis and L. Mabel (Ridenour) Hogan.

Surviving are three daughters and sons-in-law, Annette and Blake Hire of Kendallville, Tonya and Craig Barboza of St. Joe and Jolyn Adams and Daniel Douglas of Fort Wayne; a stepson, Duane Courtney of Texas; a stepdaughter, Tina Taylor of Elkhart; four sisters, Margaret Gonzalez-Bishop of Auburn, Patricia Park of Fort Wayne, Wilma Searfoss of Leesburg and Virginia Hansen of Avilla; two brothers, Richard Hogan of Angola and Darl Hogan of Nevada; seven grandchildren; nine stepgrandchildren; and three stepgreat-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Russell R. Hogan Jr.; and two brothers, Wendall Hogan and Larry Wayne Hogan.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St, Auburn, with the Rev. Al Black officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery at Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the family.

Kernie Howard

FORT WAYNE — Kernie Howard, 76, died Wednesday, June 3, 2009, at his home in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Howard retired in 1992 from Zollner Corp.

He was a disabled U.S. Army veteran.

Mr. Howard was a native of Whitesburg, Ky.

He was a member of Harvest Freewill Baptist Church in Fort Wayne and the Eagles and American Legion in Garrett.

Surviving are his wife, Ruby Howard; two sons, Bill (Karen) Howard of Albion and Mike (Cindy) Howard of Pensacola, Fla.; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and many brothers and sisters.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Nadine Howard.

Celebration of life service will be at 8 p.m. Friday at D.O. McComb & Sons Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Road, Fort Wayne.

Calling will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Friday prior to service at the funeral home.

A memorial service will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Harvest Freewill Baptist Church, 5903 E. Dupont Road, with Pastor Murrey Clugston officiating.

Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett.

Memorials are to the Parkview Hospice.

To sign the online guest book, go to www.mccombandsons.com.

THE EVENING STAR

June 5 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Joseph LaConte

WOLCOTTVILLE — Joseph LaConte, 92 of Lakeland, Fla., died at 7:56 a.m. Wednesday, June 3, 2009, at Valencia Hills Health & Rehabilitation Center in Lakeland.

Mr. LaConte was a U.S. Army veteran serving during World War II. He had served in the European Theater for 33 months. He was stationed in Algeria, French Morocco, Normandy, Sicily, Tunisia, Palermo, England, Scotland and France.

He retired in 1979 from the U.S. Postal Service.

He had lived most of his life in California. He and his wife, Anna, moved to Indiana for a short while to be near their daughter. After Anna's death, he moved to Florida.

He was born August 21, 1916, in Newark, New Jersey, to Nicholas and Rafaelle "Rae" (Vitiello) LaConte. They preceded him in death. He married Anna Battaglio on June 9, 1942, in Phoenix City, Alabama. She preceded him in death on April 11, 1986. On August 3, 1995, he married Mabel Mello in Lakeland, Fla. She survives in Lakeland.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, JoAnn and Floyd Heltzel of Rome City; a stepdaughter, Mae Mello of Florida; two stepsons, John Mello and Ron Mello both of Lakeland; two grandchildren Joseph and Michelle Heltzel of Indianapolis and Donna Rasler of Auburn; three great-grandchildren, Sirena Conley of Rome City, Tristan Conley of Rome City and Jacey Rasler of Rome City; three bothers, Nicholas LaConte and Samuel LaConte, both of New Jersey, and Gerald LaConte of Virginia; and a sister, Helen Grippaldi of New Jersey.

He was also preceded in death by a granddaughter, Tricia Heltzel; a brother, John LaConte; and three sisters, Mary D'Amato, Connie Albanese and Faye Aquilante.

Funeral services will be Monday, June 8, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Gaspar Catholic Church, Rome City, with Father Bernard Ramenaden officiating. Burial will be in Orange Cemetery, Rome City.

Calling will be Sunday, June 7, 2009, from 2-7 p.m. in Young Family Funeral Home, Wolcottville Chapel, State Road 9 North, Wolcottville. A rosary service will be held at 6:30 p.m.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR

June 7 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Taylor made the outdoors his life

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

FORT WAYNE — It's unlikely that many people have wedded their passion and their job as successfully as Ralph Taylor.

Taylor, who spent 30 years as an Indiana Department of Natural Resources conservation officer, passed away May 11. Upon retirement, Taylor held the rank of lieutenant with the DNR's Division of Law Enforcement, heading up District 2 that covers northeast Indiana.

Taylor's wife, Cheryl, said it was sometimes hard to make people understand just how much her husband loved the outdoors.

"He lived and breathed the outdoors," Cheryl said. "He understood how nature worked, the ebbs and flows and the seasons. He was always happiest when he was out there and he could bring that and capture that for everybody."

She told the story of a friend who was not a hunter.

"Ralph told her 'We're getting up tomorrow and hunting squirrels, with a camera.' So they went out at about 4:30 a.m. and she told him 'I don't see any squirrels.' So he made a little call and all of a sudden the squirrels were all over. He did that for me on our first date. We were canoeing down the Pigeon River and there was a deer nearby and he called that deer in. He just resonated with nature and resonated with people."

Taylor's colleagues said there were few men better suited for a position. Scott Charters, of Jimmerson Lake served with Taylor as a conservation officer for 30 years.

"He enjoyed the outdoors and doing the work of a conservation officer," Charters said. "He relished the public relations part of the job."

He pointed to the "Be an Outdoors Woman" campaign as an example.

"He enjoyed getting in front of all those ladies and teaching them about the outdoors. He especially relished teaching them fishing. That's what he seemed to enjoy most, teaching people how to hunt, fish to be a part of the outdoors," Charters said.

Cheryl said Taylor's devotion to the program was born out of what he saw as a rise in women deciding what activities children would be doing.

"He was one of the first people to recognize that with more single mothers you'd have more mothers determining recreational activities for their kids. It became important to teach those women about the opportunities in the outdoors," she said.

Taylor developed another program, the "Drive Alive" campaign after he retired from the DNR and became an Allen County deputy coroner, she said.

"He was a data guy, and when he worked for the coroner's office he came up with information that showed a large number of deaths involving kids with drinking and drug issues. The program was developed as a response. Its focus was on the parents, to give them the tools they needed."

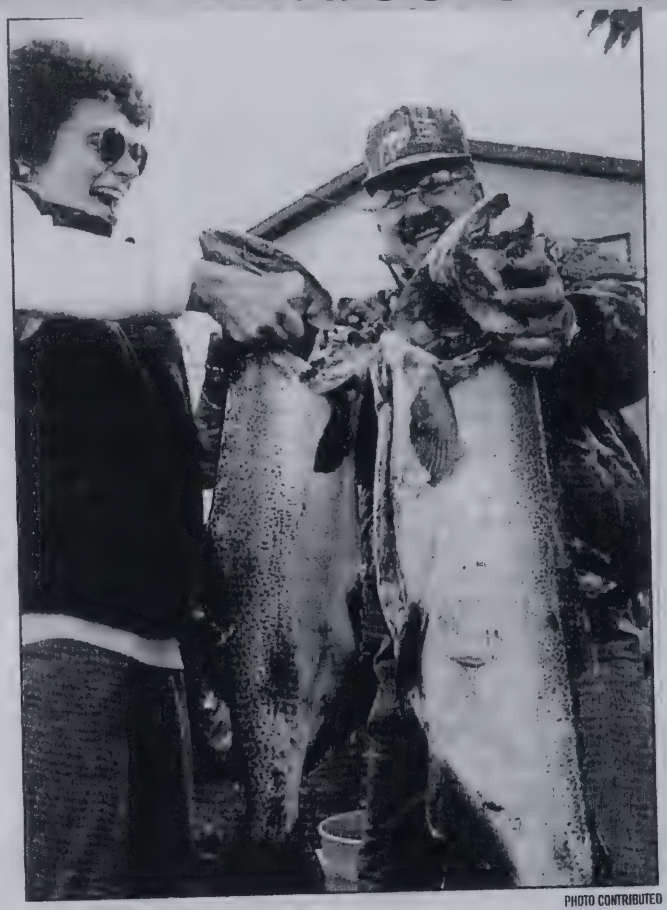


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Ralph Taylor and his wife, Cheryl, spent much of their time fishing. Taylor, a former conservation officer, was an avid outdoorsman who fished all over the country. He died May 11.

Paul Greenwalt met Taylor in his role as deputy director of the DNR.

"I first got to know Ralph professionally in the early '70s, and then we became very close friends," Greenwalt said.

He soon became a part of a group of close-knit friends who traveled across the country fishing.

"There was a core group that fished together every year and a group of guys who'd come up in the fall. We'd go up to Canada, the Great Lakes, the Ozarks," he said.

When Greenwalt moved to Steuben County, he bought a property across from Taylor's near Fox Lake, where Taylor had a small farm where he planted wild flowers and other plants.

"We really became very tight. We'd spend a lot of hours and a large amount of time working on that field." Greenwalt said his friend was "larger than life. He was the consumate outdoors man."

"The Farm," as Taylor and his friends referred to it, was really an old cattle yard, said Phil Bloom, who currently is director of communications with the DNR. "He called it his place for his friends to have an opportunity to hunt and to enjoy nature."

During the last years of his life Taylor definitely got into wildflowers, Greenwalt said. "He became a self-made expert on the subject."

Taylor, Bloom said, had a unique ability to instill confidence in those he worked with

"In terms of him as a teacher/mentor, he had a unique ability for instilling confidence in a person, that they could do things they hadn't done before." This extended, he said, beyond nature. "If it was how to do drywall, how to weld metal, he gave you confidence you could do it."

Bloom also praised his friend for his work on the Indiana Lakes Management Work Group, which Taylor first became involved with while at the DNR, and then as a representative of the Indiana Sportsman's Round Table.

"He was a real leader in keeping the group focused on the big picture," Bloom said.

Harold Blech

KENDALLVILLE — Harold Frank Blech, 93, of Kendallville died on Sunday, June 7, 2009, at Shepherd of the Hill, Kendallville.

Mr. Blech

Mr. Blech was born in Wayne Township, Noble County, Indiana, on January 31, 1916, to the late Frank and Alma (Parr) Blech. She preceded his death May 15, 2005.

He graduated from Ashley High School in 1934 and married Dorothy H. Krehl on October 2, 1938, at the Zion Lutheran Church near Corunna.

Mr. Blech was employed with McCray Refrigeration in Kendallville for 37 years. He also worked at Commercial Shear in Butler for four years.

He was a member of the St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville for 63 years where he served in various leadership roles. He also served 20 years as Noble County Councilman for the Fourth District.

Harold loved to go fishing, play euchre and in the past, tend to his vegetable garden.

Survivors include a daughter, Shirley and Jesus Rodriguez of Fort Wayne; two sons, Larry and Gail Blech of Bella Vista, Arkansas, and Dale and Kathy Blech of Livonia, Michigan; eight grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and two sisters-in-law, Mable Frick of Kendallville and Beverly Blech of Auburn.

He was also preceded in death by his three brothers, Paul, Edwin and Robert Blech.

Visitation will be Thursday, June 11, 2009, from 4-8 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Friday, June 12, 2009, at 11 a.m. at St. John Lutheran Church, Kendallville.

There will be an hour of visitation before the funeral service at the church.

Officiating the funeral service will be Rev. Paul B. Griebel.

Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville, Indiana. Active casketbearers will be Kent Crow, Jim Williams, David Brillhart, Tommy Poynter, Joe Poynter and Rex Blech. Honorary bearers will be John Coombs, Thad McKinley, David Frick and Dennis Frick.

Preferred memorials may be made to St. John Lutheran Church or Shepherd of the Hill.

View a video tribute by Thursday, June 11, 2009, or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Camdyn Hunt

GARRETT — Infant Camdyn Micheal Hunt, daughter of Josh Hunt of Auburn and Hillary Depew of Garrett, died Tuesday, June 9, 2009.

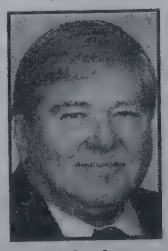
Private family services will be held.

Burial will be in Greenlawn Memorial Park.

Arrangements are by Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Hugh Eshelman

SYLVAN LAKE, ROME CITY — Longtime Kendallville businessman Hugh Edwin Eshelman, 66, of Sylvan Lake, died unexpectedly on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at Parkview Memorial Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



Mr. Eshelman

Hugh had been the owner and operator of Eshelman Excavating in Kendallville since 1972.

Later, he started Eshelman Sand and Gravel.

Mr. Eshelman was born in Kendallville on March 15, 1943, to Paul Robert and Ruth Elizabeth (Smith) Eshelman.

He graduated from Kendallville High School in 1961, entered the United States Army, and served his country stateside during the Vietnam Era.

He married Cathleen Ann Ellsworth on July 6, 1963, at the First Presbyterian Church in Kendallville.

He was baptized and confirmed into the Zion Lutheran Church at a young age and was a lifetime member. Hugh was a dedicated husband, father and grandpa and his faith and his family were the things most important in his life.

Hugh loved to ride his Harley Davidson motorcycle and he enjoyed collecting and fixing up classic cars. He was an accomplished marksman and belonged to the Guns & Gallery shooting league on Mile Corner.

Hugh was a big NASCAR fan and especially followed Dale Earnhardt Sr.

In the church, he was a member of the stewardship board. He was a member of Elks Lodge and Eagles Lodge, both in Kendallville, and he served as a Noble County Commissioner from 1977-80.

Survivors include his wife, Cathy Eshelman of Rome City; two daughters, Heather and Josh Molen of Rome City and Chris and Scott Koegler of Kendallville; his mother, Ruth Eshelman Swogger of Kendallville; grandchildren, Zachary, Nicholas, Jordan and Taylor Koegler and Alexandria, Trevor and Elizabeth Molen; a brother, Wayne and Beverly Eshelman of Kendallville; and two sisters, his twin, Sharon and DeWayne Lockwood of Waterloo and Eleanor and Hubert Kugler of Butler.

He was preceded in death by his father, who died in October 1976.

Visitation will be from 3-8 p.m. Friday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 13, 2009, at Zion Lutheran Church near Corunna, with visitation one hour before the service. Officiating the funeral service will be the Rev. Al Wingfield.

Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville, Indiana. Casketbearers will be his grandsons, Zach, Nicholas and Trevor, his sons-in-law, Josh and Scott, and his brother, Wayne.

Preferred memorials may be made to Zion Lutheran Church Mission Fund or Concordia Theological Seminary Student Financial Aid or to the donor's choice.

View a video tribute by Friday or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Marie Brindle

GARRETT — Marie G. "Mickey" Brindle, 89, of Garrett died Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home in Garrett.

Mrs. Brindle had been employed as a meat packer at Eckrich from 1953-1977.

She was a member of the Garrett American Legion Auxiliary and the Red Hat Society.

She was born Dec. 28, 1919 in South Bend to Frank and Ester (Schrader) Grunawalt. She married Earl Brindle on Oct. 4, 1975, and he died Jan. 2, 1987.

Surviving are a daughter, Sandra Guinn of Auburn; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; two sons, Thomas E. and Steven A. Gradeless; a brother, Otis Grunawalt; a half brother, Charles Haven; and a half sister, Beatrice Haven Lemon.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett with Pastor Jeffrey Horn officiating. Burial will follow in Huntertown Cemetery.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Thomas Funeral Home to assist with expenses.

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook go to www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Edna Haffner

BUTLER — Edna M. Haffner, 94, died Tuesday, June 10, 2009, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home.

She was born on Sept. 10, 1914, in DeKalb County to William and Susie (Greenfield) Rollins. She married Cloyd Haffner on Oct. 5, 1968. He preceded in death on Aug. 8, 1996.

Surviving are three grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren and several great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Robert Mock; a daughter, Betty R. Scott; four sisters, Viola Jetmore, Evelyn Krafft, Rosa Krontz and Anna White; and a brother, William Rollins.

There will be no calling or funeral services.

Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett.

H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, is in charge of arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR

June 11 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Crash victim dies

WATERLOO — A passenger has died from injuries he sustained in a crash Tuesday evening in Waterloo.

Dorman Davis of Butler died at Lutheran Hospital Tuesday night. A medical rescue helicopter flew him to the hospital after a one-car crash at the corner of U.S. 6 and Washington Street in Waterloo.

Police said Davis' wife, Beverly Davis, was driving a 2006 Chevrolet Malibu eastbound on U.S. 6 just before 6:45 p.m. Tuesday. After passing through the stoplight at Wayne Street, she appeared to have driven straight into a stone wall at 380 Washington St.

Beverly Davis also was airlifted by an air ambulance helicopter. According to a report from the Waterloo marshal, she is at Lutheran Hospital. Her condition was not available. The report said she suffered injuries to her upper arms, upper legs, abdomen and chest.

Two passengers in the car, Dillon Davis, 8, and Kayli Ley, 10, both of Butler, suffered cuts and contusions and were taken to DeKalb Memorial Hospital for treatment, police said. Their conditions also were not available.

An obituary for Mr. Davis appears on Page A4 of today's edition.

Dorman Davis

BUTLER — Butler businessman Dorman D. Davis, 74, of Butler died Tuesday, June 9, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital from injuries sustained in an auto accident.

Mr. Davis was a former manager of the Kroger grocery for 18 years, had owned and operated the Gamble's store in Butler, and was currently owner of Global Outlet in Butler.

He was a graduate of Butler High School.

He was born Sept. 8, 1934, in Hicksville, Ohio, to Frederick and Berneice (Cross) Davis. He married Beverly Beard on June 5, 1954 in Butler. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law Fred and Tammy Davis of Butler and Perry Davis of Butler; two daughters and sons-in-law, Torrie and Jeff Krontz of Butler and Tina and Gerald Kline of Auburn; two sisters, Dorothy Reece of Lodi, Ohio, and Doris Schortgen of Waterloo; eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Donald Davis.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Christ's Church of Butler, with Pastor Dale Rabineau officiating.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. Friday at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home in Butler.

Memorials are to Christ's Church of Butler.

Maryellen Kennedy

WATERLOO — Maryellen M. Kennedy, 86, of Waterloo died Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at her home.

Mrs. Kennedy worked for several years at the Auburn City Hardware.

She was born Nov. 28, 1922, in Auburn, to Stanley Hull and Gertrude (Shull) Ekelberry. She married William L. Kennedy on June 12, 1940, in Fort Wayne. He survives in Waterloo.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, William Jr. and Teresa Kennedy of Fremont; three daughters and sons-in-law, Sally and Milo Weingart of Green Valley, Ariz., Gertrude and Edward Durning of Waterloo and Susan Kennedy of Garrett; 13 grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one daughter, Janice DeWitt.

There will be no calling or services at this time.

A graveside service will be held in the Cedar Creek Cemetery in Garrett at a later date.

Feller Funeral Home of Waterloo is handling arrangements.

Dean Eriksen

BRYAN, Ohio — Dean R. Eriksen, 41, of Bryan died Sunday, June 7, 2009, shortly after admittance to St. Anne's Hospital in Toledo after suffering a heart attack.

A 1986 graduate of Montpelier High School, he was formerly employed with Sauder Woodworking in Archbold, Ohio.

He was a volunteer at Home by Grace and a member of Grace Community Church.

Surviving are his wife, Jackie; a daughter, Noell Eriksen of Auburn; two sons, Dean Eriksen Jr. and Travis Eriksen, both of Auburn; two stepsons; one stepdaughter; his parents, Lawrence Eriksen and Carol Eriksen, both of Montpelier, Ohio; a brother; a sister; a niece; and numerous aunts and uncles.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Grace Community Church in Bryan with Pastor Mike Kelly officiating. Burial will be in Fountain Grove Cemetery at Bryan.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Krill Funeral Home, 860 W. Mulberry St., in Bryan.

Memorials are to the family.

Condolences may be sent to and the online register signed at www.krillfuneralservice.com.

Dorothy Rowan

HICKSVILLE, Ohio — Dorothy Wanda Rowan, 94, died on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at Community Hospital and Wellness Center in Bryan, Ohio.

Mrs. Rowan

She was born on March 11, 1915, in Farmer Township, Defiance County, Ohio, the daughter of Harry W. and Lily F. (Van Horn) Blair.

She grew up on a farm near Farmer, Ohio, attending a one-room country school for eight years and graduating from Farmer High School in 1933.

Her principal urged her to go to college to become a teacher. She earned a Bachelor's in Education in 1935 from Bowling Green State University, a Bachelor of Science in Education in 1974 from Indiana University and a Master of Science in Education in 1977 from Indiana University.

She taught for three years at country schools in Milford Township and two years in the second grade and fourth grade at Farmer Elementary School until she married in 1940.

She married Robert Rowan on August 5, 1940. They owned Rowan Coal Co. in Hicksville for over 30 years. He died in 1971 after 31 years of marriage.

They moved to Hicksville in 1948 where she taught second and third grade at Hicksville Elementary and from 1959-1981 she taught kindergarten at Hicksville Elementary, retiring in 1981 after 31 years of teaching. For 27 years during the summer she was a volunteer teacher at the log school house at Sauder Village, Archbold, Ohio.

She was a member of the Trinity United Methodist Church, Hicksville; Hicksville Happy Hatters Red Hat Club; La Fleur de Terre Garden Club; Order of Eastern Star 248 in Bryan; Ohio State Retired Teachers Association; Defiance AAUW and the Bowling Green State University Alumni Association.

She loved traveling which began right after college and included all 50 states and many countries.

She is survived by her children: Janet (George) Kadesch of Lambertville, Michigan, Robert (Jackie) of Auburn, Indiana; David (Laura) of University Heights, Ohio and Dr. Stanley (Carol) of Bryan, Ohio; grandchildren: Gregory (Cynthia) Kadesch of Haslet, Texas, Paul Kadesch of Waterford, Michigan; Lisa (Jonathan) Barth of Auburn, Indiana; Jodi (Jeff) Gibson of Corunna, Indiana; Bobbi (David) Kurtz of Auburn, Indiana; Lindsay Rowan of Arlington, Virginia; Christine (Casey) Spitnale of Dayton, Ohio; Kim Rowan of Bentonville, Arkansas, and Matthew Rowan of Bryan, Ohio; and her great-grandchildren: Justin, Ashton, Tiffany and Kyle Kadesch, Jackson, Madison, and Taylor Barth, and Rowan and Avery Kurtz.

She was preceded in death by her husband; a grandson, Kenton Kadesch; two sisters, Eunice Elser and Mona Rowan; and a brother, Ray Blair.

Funeral services will be on Saturday at 10 a.m. at Smith & Brown Funeral Home in Hicksville, Ohio, with the Rev. Tom Graves officiating.

Visitation will be from 2-8 p.m. today at the funeral home with an Eastern Star service at 7 p.m.

Burial will be at Six Corners Cemetery at Hicksville.

Memorials may be given to Trinity United Methodist Church or to the donor's choice.

Condolences may be shared at www.smithbrownfuneralhome.com.

Merle Steller Jr.

GARRETT — Merle O. Steller Jr., 76, died Thursday, June 11, 2009, at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne. Memorial services will be held at a later date.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Dennis Smith

WATERLOO — Dennis J. Smith, 66, died Friday, June 12, 2009, at his home in Waterloo.

Mr. Smith had owned and operated DenSign of Waterloo before retiring in 2003.

He was a former member of the Waterloo Chamber of Commerce and a past member of the Waterloo Jaycees. He was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn and a 4th Degree Knights of Columbus.

He was born March 6, 1943, in Auburn to Richard J. and Opal (Poorman) Smith. He married Janet Dunn on June 17, 1967, in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn and she survives.

He is also survived by a daughter, Leslie Boles of Waterloo; three sons and two daughters-in-law, Patrick and Lindsay Smith of Waterloo, Ryan and Tracy Smith of Waterloo and Nicholas Smith of Waterloo; eight grandchildren, Tifani, Dylan, Piper and Stockard Smith, Austin and Andrew Boles, and Francis and Dalton Smith; a sister Sharon Bullock of Waterloo; and two brothers and sisters-in-law, Stanley and Jeanne Smith of Waterloo and Noel and Sue Smith of Waterloo.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Richard A. Smith.

Services will be Monday, June 15, 2009, at 11 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Auburn. Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery, Auburn.

Visitation is from 2-6 p.m. Sunday at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo, and one hour prior to the service at the church Monday. A Rosary will be recited at 6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to Hemophilia of Indiana, 5170 East 65th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46220-4992 or DeKalb Memorial Hospice or Masses to the church.

Merle Steller Jr.

GARRETT — Merle O. Steller Jr., 76, of Garrett died Thursday, June 11, 2009, at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Steller

Mr. Steller had worked as a truck driver for United in Fort Wayne. He then worked for the Mahoney Foundry in Kendallville until his retirement in 2008.

He was born May 6, 1933, in Fort Wayne to Merle O. Steller Sr. and Lillian P. Steller. They both preceded him in death.

He married Melanie Walburn on June 6, 1991, in Auburn, and she survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are four daughters and sons-in-law, Linda and Bill Basinger of Waterloo, Sandy and Rick Marti of Garrett, Peggy and Mike Jenkins of Auburn and Penny and Jim Wooster of Auburn; three sons and daughters-in-law, Robert and Berniece Steller of Louisville, Ky., Merle III and Lynn Steller of Auburn, and Brad and Sheila Steller of Angola; three stepsons and a spouse, Jason and Bridgett High of Garrett, Jeremy High of Garrett and Davy Womack of Garrett; one brother, Tony Steller; 20 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of his life will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, June 19, at the Celebration Hall, 1346 S. Randolph St., Garrett.

Memorials may be directed to the family.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR

June 14 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Woman was servant at heart

BY JENNY KOBIELA-MONDOR
jennyk@kpcnews.net

GARRETT — Sandra Albert's life was never about her.

"Sandi was a servant, I think, in the truest sense of the word," said her husband, Tim Albert.

Sandra Albert died Saturday, April 18, 2009, at the age of 52.

"She never wanted to be in the spotlight," Albert said of his late wife. "It was always the background, the mode of the person who can help the most without being seen. That's who she really was at heart. She wanted to know where she could help, and how she could be a positive force without anybody knowing it."

Sandra Albert was a "bright-eyed strawberry blonde" with a big smile and an even bigger heart, her husband said.

"All of her friends from high school through college years and young adult, they always called her Lucy, because she had this strawberry blonde hair and big smile and a sense of humor that was very infectious to those around her," he said. "Over the years, that smile kept growing warmer and more humble. She was always looking for ways to help other people and be the servant she was."

Mrs. Albert also was a devoted mother, according to Tim Albert. Their son, Ezekiel, was born in 1999, and she homeschooled him until part way through first grade, before her illness forced her to stop.

"Her true passion in life was being a mom and homemaker," her husband wrote before her funeral. "She told me many times how much she loved teaching and training Ezekiel and motherhood in general."

Sandra Albert felt a strong connection to senior citizens and toddlers. She enjoyed visiting with seniors, and always put her own problems on the back burner when she talked with them.

"She had a way of always making a conversation come back around to finding out how they were, even in her illness," Tim Albert said.

"Sandi's love and caring for others was patient and kind," her close friend, Carma Gaier said at Albert's funeral. "Sandi had a very unique way of turning a concern for her that you would express into getting you to talk about your needs or what she could do for you."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Sandra Albert poses with her son, Ezekiel, in 2000, when he was 1 year old. Mrs. Albert died April 18 at the age of 52.

Gaier recently wrote that she and Sandra Albert often counseled each other through difficult situations during the 30 years they knew each other.

"We knew each other's pasts, and knew each other's hearts, and loved each other deeply," Gaier wrote. "It was such a comfort to know she was continually praying for me. I think that is what I miss the most — the one person that I could go to and talk about anything."

Mrs. Albert also enjoyed spending time with young children. She taught Sunday School to toddlers aged 2 to 4 years at County Line Church of God.

"She could take a kid crying in mom's arms, and they would come out of there not wanting to go home," Tim Albert said. "They wanted to stay with Miss Sandi. It was a tribute, I think, to her personality and genuine love she had for those kids."

Sandra Albert felt it was especially important to teach children about Christ.

"Many kids would go through this and know that Sandi was the first one who really taught them about what the church was all about, what the love of Christ was and how to share it with one another," Albert said. "I just think she had a gift that way."

> *"... Sandi was the first one who really taught them about what the church was all about."*
>
> **Tim Albert**
> Speaking about his wife, Sandi

In fact, Tim Albert said, he was told that on the day the minister announced her death at church, one of his late wife's former Sunday School students leaned over to her grandfather and whispered, "Miss Sandi taught me about Jesus."

"That was a tribute, I thought, to what Sandi was able to do with that age of a child," Albert said. "She just had that natural ability."

Velma Lee

AUBURN — Velma Ruth Lee, formerly of New Haven, passed away peacefully in her sleep June 12, 2009, at Wesley Healthcare in Auburn.

She was born to James Franklin "Frank" and Doris E. Shields Stafford Feb. 5, 1909.She married Merrill "Jenks" Jenkins Sept. 3, 1925. They had one daughter who only lived a few months. Merrill died in the Battle of the Bulge in 1944. Ruth married Marvin Lee in 1949 and acquired two stepsons, since deceased, and two grandsons, Bruce and Mark Lee. Ruth was a member of The Church of God.

Ruth has two living brothers and sister-in-laws, Walter and Willamae and Robert and Mary Stafford. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Wilma, and her husband, Keith Shock; a half-sister Ethel Hall; three brothers and two sisters-in-law, Merl, Paul and Opal and Maurice Eugene and Annabelle Staffords; and three half-brothers and spouses, Jay L. and Helen Stafford, Charles and Josephine Stafford and Lewis F. Stafford.

Graveside services will be held at Roselawn Cemetary in Auburn on Tuesday, June 16, at 2 p.m.

The Rev. Paul Burris will officiate.

Arrangements are by H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home of Angola.

Barbara Jensen

SYRACUSE — Barbara Ann Jensen, 49, of Syracuse died Saturday, June 13, 2009 at home.

Graveside services will be Friday at 2:30 p.m. at Butler Cemetery, Butler.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Tuesday at Owen Family Funeral Home, Syracuse.

Memorials are to the Barbara Jensen Funeral Fund c/o the funeral home.

Isabelle Carsten

AUBURN — Isabelle M. Carsten, 94, of Auburn died Sunday, June 14, 2009, at her home in Auburn.

Mrs. Carsten had been a social secretary, retiring in 1979.

She was a member of the Steuben County Woman's Club, Steuben County Republican Women's Club, Jamestown Extension Homemakers and the Angola Business and Professional Women's Club who named her Woman of the Year in 1987.

Mrs. Carsten was a past president of the Well Child Board of Directors, past president of the Steuben County Council on Aging, treasurer of the local AARP chapter, board member of the Aging & In-Home Services and had been an Older Hoosier delegate to the Legislative Assembly.

She was a volunteer for RISE Inc., the Well Child Clinic, Sertoma and S.O.S. She received the Service to Mankind Award from the Sertomas in 1990.

Mrs. Carsten was also involved with the Community of the Cross, Crosswood Centre, in Auburn.

She was born Aug. 29, 1914, in Chicago to Amos and Mae (Eich) Warwick. She married Earl Carsten and he died April 1, 2008.

Surviving are her nieces and nephews, Andrew and Carol Ferguson, Mona Lusk and Harlan and Joan Warwick, all of Nevada.

Funeral services will be at 6:30 pm. Friday at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola with Mother Joan North officiating. Burial will be in St. Mary Magdalene Crosswood Centre at Auburn.

Calling will be from 5-6:30 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Community of the Cross in Auburn.

Howard Egly

ANGOLA — Howard Eugene Egly Sr., 94, of Waterloo died Monday, June 15, 2009, at Northern Lakes Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Angola.

Mr. Egly had been a farm hand at the Kenneth Newnam Farm for 22 years, retiring in 1983. He had also been employed at JTK-American Tractor in Churubusco.

Mr. Egly

He had been a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps Co. 556 and worked at Pokagon State Park planting trees and constructing buildings.

He was born Nov. 26, 1914, in Craigville in Wells County, Ind., to Albert and Sylvia S. (Blair) Egly. They are deceased.

He married Mary Esther Weirick on Nov. 2, 1940. She also preceded him in death.

Surviving are two sons, Howard E. Egly Jr. and his wife, Ronda, of Waterloo and Phillip J. Egly and his wife, Kathy, of Auburn; eight grandchildren, Eric Egly, Amy Snider, Chris Egly, Chad Egly, Brian Egly, Joe Jarrell, Kenny Arney and Scott Meeks; seven great-grandchildren, Devin, Allison, Jeremiah, Scott, Nicole, Jarrett, Mollie and one more great-grandchild; and three step-great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by a daughter, Jill Meeks, and 10 brothers and sisters.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, June 19, at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola with the Rev. Rick Pettys officiating. Burial will be in Circle Cemetery at Hudson, Ind.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday, June 18, at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Cameron Hospice and Home Health.

THE EVENING STAR

June 18 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Harry Gage

AUBURN — Harry L. Gage, 87, of Auburn died Tuesday, June 16, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Gage had been a printer at Doty Lithograph for 28 years, retiring in 1990. He also drove for many years for the Indiana Auto Auction and Ben Davis.

Mr. Gage

He was born May 6, 1922, in Sturgis, Mich., the son of Vern and Helen Gage.

Surviving are his wife, Sharon Gage of Auburn; five sons and a daughter-in-law, Andrew and Michelle Gage of Muncie, Edward Gage of Toledo, Ohio, Frank Gage of Springfield, Ill., Jeffrey Gage of Toledo and Trent Groves of Butler; a daughter and son-in-law, Carla and Timothy Harding of Fort Wayne; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Elsie Lee

CORUNNA — Elsie M. Lee, 76, died Wednesday, June 17, 2009, at her home in Corunna.

Elsie was a homemaker.

She was born May 6, 1933 in Cynthiana, Kentucky, to Ed and Anna (Hicks) Lucky. They have both passed away.

Mrs. Lee

She was a member of the Corunna Community Church, Kendallville Eagles Auxiliary and the Kendallville VFW Ladies Auxiliary.

She married Woodrow Lee on April 30, 1960, in Nicholasville, Kentucky, and he survives.

She is also survived by a daughter and son-in-law, MaryAnn A. and Richard Hillard of Knoxville, Tenn.; a granddaughter and her husband, Janet K. and Ron Barton of St. Joe, Louisiana; and a sister-in-law, Norma Lucky of Omaha, Nebraska.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Charles Lucky; and two sisters, Nina Hutchison and Judith Roberts.

Services are at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 21, 2009, at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo. The Rev Richard Pickard will officiate. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling is Saturday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to the Corunna Volunteer Fire Department.

Orla Myers

FREMONT — Orla B. Myers, 93, of Fremont died Wednesday, June 17, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Myers worked for the Indiana Toll Road for 20 years, retiring in 1978.

He owned Orland Package Liquor and was a retired farmer.

Mr. Myers was a charter member and past governor of the Angola Moose Lodge and a former member of the Angola Elks Lodge. He was a member of Angola Masonic Lodge No. 236 and became a Third Degree Mason in 1966. He was also a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Fort Wayne and the Mizpah Shrine.

He enjoyed fishing, golfing and bowling.

He was born January 7, 1916, in DeKalb County, Indiana, to Seth and Effie (Fisher) Myers. He married Wanda DeLancey.

Surviving are a son, James "Sonny" Myers of Birchtree, Mo.; two daughters, Gloria Grim of Fremont, Ind., and Barbara and Bobby Payne of Green Valley, Ariz.; a sister, Mildred June Hill of Williamston, Mich.; four grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Wanda DeLancey Myers on Jan. 30, 1998; five brothers, Floyd, Lloyd, Glen, Voyle and Chris Myers; and two sisters, Norma Parker and Harriet Loucks.

Masonic funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 20, 2009, at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola with Paul Friend officiating. Burial will be in Circle Hill Cemetery at Angola.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. prior to the service.

Memorials are to the Angola Masonic Lodge.

Landon Rutter

GARRETT — Infant Landon William D'Wayne Leland Rutter, 1-day-old son of Ashley Letrice Leland and Samuel Robert Rutter of Garrett, died Wednesday, June 17, 2009, at DuPont Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Surviving with his parents are a grandmother and stepgrandfather, Kathryn and Daniel Wolfe of Kendallville; a grandmother, Patty Leland of Garrett; grandparents, Claudy and Regina Todd of Grabill; a stepgrandmother, Debra Rutter of Logan, Ohio; a great-grandmother, Ruth Leland of Garrett; his aunts, Abigail Dorton of Garrett, Rachel Wolfe of Kendallville, Karrie Blosser of New Lexington, Ohio, and Shelly Rutter of Logan, Ohio; and an uncle, Dewayne Rutter of Logan, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by a grandfather, Samuel Rutter; great-grandfathers, Robert Cowan, Wayne Leland, Lowell Leland, Claudy Dale Todd and John Rutter; great-grandmothers, Retta Cowan, Patsy Leland, Norma Jean Todd and Pauline Gilkey; and uncles, Adam Rutter and Justin Todd.

Graveside funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Sedan Cemetery near Corunna.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to noon Monday at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Isabelle Carsten

AUBURN — Isabelle M. Carsten, 94, of Auburn died Sunday, June 14, 2009, at her home in Auburn.

Mrs. Carsten had been a social secretary, retiring in 1979.

She was a member of the Steuben County Woman's Club, Steuben County Republican Women's Club, Jamestown Extension Homemakers and the Angola Business and Professional Women's Club who named her Woman of the Year in 1987.

Mrs. Carsten was a past president of the Well Child Board of Directors, past president of the Steuben County Council on Aging, treasurer of the local AARP chapter, board member of the Aging & In-Home Services and had been an Older Hoosier delegate to the Legislative Assembly.

She was a volunteer for RISE Inc., the Well Child Clinic, Sertoma and S.O.S. She received the Service to Mankind Award from the Sertomas in 1990.

Mrs. Carsten was also involved with the Community of the Cross, Crosswood Centre, in Auburn.

She was born Aug. 29, 1914, in Chicago to Amos and Mae (Eich) Warwick. She married Earl Carsten and he died April 1, 2008.

Surviving are her nieces and nephews, Andrew and Carol Ferguson, Mona Lusk and Harlan and Joan Warwick, all of Nevada.

She was also preceded in death by a son, Father E. Brian "Skip" Carsten on March 27, 2009, and a brother, Ralph Warwick.

Funeral services were held Friday at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola with Mother Joan North officiating. Burial will be in St. Mary Magdalene Crosswood Centre at Auburn.

Memorials are to Community of the Cross in Auburn.

THE EVENING STAR

June 20 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Margaret Waring

AUBURN — Margaret "Peg" L. Waring, 78, of Auburn died on Friday, June 19, 2009, at 8:25 p.m. at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was born March 6, 1931, in Buffalo, N.Y. to Edward and Margaret (Fleming) Albright. She married Richard J. Waring on Sept. 25, 1954, in Hamburg, N.Y. They moved to Auburn in 1963 to raise their family.

Mrs. Waring

Peg was a homemaker. She was an avid gardener, knitter and seamstress. She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett, a member of the Spinning Spools Quilt Guild, past 4-H leader and past Girl Scout leader. Peg was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend.

Surviving is her husband of 54 years, Richard J. Waring of Auburn. Daughter and son in-law, Bridget and Paul Beber of Auburn; son and daughter in-law, Richard Jr. and Deborah Waring of Kimmel; daughter and son in-law, Nanette and Scott Batey of Pleasant Lake and son and daughter in-law Henry and Diana Waring of Avilla. One sister, Nancy Ludwig of Hamburg, N.Y. and eleven grandchildren; Candace, Edward and Margaret Beber; Richard "Trey" Waring III, Kellie Waring, Colton Batey, Henry Waring Jr., Amelia, Seth, Lydia and Eric Waring. She was preceded in death by her parents and sister Patricia DiRosa.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Tuesday, June 23, 2009, at 11 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett, with Fr. Andrew Nazareth officiating. Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery.

Calling will take place on Monday, June 22, 2009, from 2-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett, and one hour prior to Mass at the church. A rosary service will be held on Monday at 7:30 p.m. Memorials are to St. Joseph Catholic Church.

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org

Arrangements by Thomas Funeral Home.

THE EVENING STAR

June 21 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Craig crosses the final finish line

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

FREMONT — When Charles "Chad" Craig was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis in 1972 as an infant, his mother, Sheila Petry, was told he wouldn't become a teenager. Craig lost his battle with the illness last month, but he managed to pack quite a life, one that touched many throughout Fremont, into is 37 years.

While the life-expectancy for someone with cystic fibrosis (CF) has increased due to to better awareness and early treatments, when Craig was diagnosed, his chances of seeing 20 were dim, his mother said. Two things, she said, kept he son going.

"The two reasons Chad made it to 37 were that God watched over him and that he was a runner," she said.

Craig ran track and cross country, first at Fremont Middle School, then at the high school. His coach, Bob Head, said he'd tracked Craig's progress while he was in middle school to be sure his body could handle the strain of the sport.

"I thought 'If he's handling it there, he'll be able to handle it here,'" Head said. Craig embraced the challenge of running distance, Head said.

"He was an amazing runner, especially for having a disease like he had. He just put everything into it," Head said.

Craig was accomplished enough as a runner to finish fifth at a regional competition in 1988 and ran at Manchester College.

"He led us in workouts most of the time," Head said. "He was just kind of an upbeat customer and he'd never really talk about his disease."

Craig's runs helped to raise awareness of the disease in the area, his mother said.

"I want to thank a lot of the people in Steuben County who've supported Chad. He started out a poster child for CF," Petry said.

She noted the support her son received from various people in the Fremont community specifically.

A few years after he stopped running competitively, Craig took up pool, and did so in a big way, joining the American Pool Association and even coaching. Connie Gorman, one of the co owner's of McCool's Tavern, went to school with Craig at Fremont but really got to know him after she and her husband took over the bar.

"That's what he did every Thursday and Friday night, play pool," Gorman said. "He was such a good teacher. We actually went to Las Vegas (where a national tournament is held). We won regionals with him last year and got to go Vegas. He was our captain."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Charles "Chad" Craig fought cystic fibrosis for 37 years, besting doctor's predictions by 25 years. In high school, Craig was an accomplished runner. Here he is at regionals, where he finished in fifth place in 1988.

Gorman said Craig took up the game when he turned 21, and it helped to fuel him competitively.

"He was definitely very competitive," she said. "He did not like to lose."

Longtime friend Stephen Pierre, who played on the McCool's team with Craig, agreed.

"He was awesome," Pierre said. "I loved playing for Chad because there was no B.S. He was always straight with you. He wanted to shoot a good game. He was a winner all his life. Even with his disease beating on him, he was beating it. Everything in his life he went after 110 percent."

Sam Presley, Craig's uncle, employed him at his Angola timber company. He hired Craig after college and a brief stint as a physical education teacher.

"You couldn't ask for a better worker," Presley said. "Or a better nephew. He was like a son. I can't give him enough praise for the way he was. Anything he could do he would do for you."

Even as his disease began to take its toll, Presley said Craig would remain steadfast.

Kristi Vandiver got to see a different side of Craig. The two met almost two years ago.

"We actually met on the Internet," Vandiver said. "He's actually the only person I've ever really met on the Internet."

While going through what she called a rough period, Vandiver went to an online dating site, but ultimately decided against joining because of the fees. However, she began receiving e-mails from prospective dates, and one was Craig.

"We talked for two or three months via e-mail," she said. "We met on Labor Day weekend (2007). I was camping with my family, so it was probably pretty intimidating to Chad. But after that, it was just Chad and I."

Vandiver said Craig actually kept his illness from her for a while they were together. The game was up, however, when Craig received a call from the CF clinic in Fort Wayne where he received treatments.

"He had answered on speaker phone and he immediately took it off," she said. "After that he was very open about it."

Vandiver said she began studying CF more as part of some college projects and was able to talk with Craig about his disease.

"His whole world just opened up to me at that point. He was a really, really good man. He was very caring, and at the same time, very concerned about others," she said.

Most nights, she said, the pair would stay in, watch movies and cuddle.

"He had an uncanny ability to read people. You knew exactly where you stood with Chad, there were no ulterior motives."

During his final months, she said, Craig concerned himself with helping others as a role model. After going unconscious on a trip to the hospital in Fort Wayne in January, Vandiver said Craig's first thoughts upon waking up were of another area CF patient.

"He wanted to talk to him, he wanted to be that example of how you needed to take care of yourself," she said.

He was also thinking about the two of them, she said. Due to finances, the couple decided not to exchange gifts at Christmas. Things seemingly hadn't improved much by Valentine's Day.

"I got up Valentine's Day morning and went into the bathroom and saw a gift box with a big bow. He'd gotten me a pair of diamond earrings. I still don't know how he'd pulled it off."

Petry said a pair of scholarships are being put together in Craig's memory. One will go to a cross country runner from Fremont while another will go through the CF clinic at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne, to go to a student interested in respiratory therapy.

Fund raisers will include pool and poker tournaments at McCool's, she said.

"That way, Chad's legacy will get to live on," Petry said.

THE EVENING STAR

June 21 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Tony Vanderpool

GARRETT — Tony L. Vanderpool, 51, of Garrett died on Friday, June 19, 2009, at 6:45 p.m. at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Vanderpool was a laborer at Kimballs in Auburn for 21 years. He enjoyed hunting and liked to fish.

He was born March 1, 1958, in Garrett to John and Mavis (Howard) Vanderpool.

He is survived by his mother, Mavis Vanderpool of Garrett and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett, with Funeral Celebrant Ryan Myers of Thomas Funeral Home officiating. Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery.

Calling will be on Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society or donor's choice.

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org

Arrangements by Thomas Funeral Home.

Georgia Hartman

ANGOLA — Georgia L. Hartman, 86, of Angola died Sunday, June 21, 2009, at Cameron Memorial Hospital in Angola.

Mrs. Hartman worked for Wakefield R P Co. in Waterloo until her retirement in 1987.

Mrs. Hartman

She was born Feb. 22, 1923, in Auburn to Floyd and Laura (Kaufman) Musser. She married Loren Hartman on Nov. 25, 1944, in Galveston, Texas. He died March 8, 2002.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Rex Hartman of Kendallville and Loren Donald "Don" and Bobbi Hartman of Orland; a daughter-in-law, Martha Hartman of Edgerton, Ohio; five sisters and a brother-in-law, Alta Gettys of Waterloo, Velma Ellert of Ashley, Wava Missler of Bryan, Ohio, Vera Smith of Angola and Janice and Carl DeYoung of Corunna; nine grandchildren and their spouses, Scott and Brooke Hartman of Edon, Ohio, Mike and Sherry Hartman of Butler, Jackie and Troy Shutt of Auburn, Travis and Bridget Hartman of Columbia City, Amanda Hartman of Columbia City, Amber Hartman of Columbia City, Randy Hartman of Columbia City, Jasmin Hartman of Fort Wayne, and Lindsey Hartman of Orland; and six great-grandchildren, Darrius, Savannah, Zachary, Macey, Alyssa- and Jessica.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; one son, Larry Hartman; one brother, Max Musser; and four sisters, Ruth Hire, Opal Stoy, Nina Canfield and Reba Lucas.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery, Waterloo.

Calling will be from noon to 3 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to Northern Lakes Nursing Home, 516 Williams St., Angola.

Margaret Mossburg

BUTLER — Margaret E. Mossburg 83, of Butler died Sunday, June 21, 2009, at the Laurels of DeKalb.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Burial will be in Mossburg Cemetery, Bluffton.

Calling will be one hour prior to services.

Memorials to The Laurel of DeKalb.

Kay Schiffli

BUTLER — Kay Schiffli came to us on May 13, 1942, to Marion and Ercel (Tyson) Moore.

Her mother survives, as do her brothers, Jay and Wilbur Moore, and a sister, Freida Blair.

She was preceded in death by her father, Marion "Pete" Moore, and a brother, Walter Moore.

She married Max Schiffli on March 6, 1965.

Max and Kay began their family with Doug Schiffli, Melissa Schiffli and Jason Schiffli. Family members added were Nancy Thurber and Liz Schiffli (Renkenberger).

Kay was devoted to her grandchildren, Ethan, Audrey, Seth and Avery.

Kay was devoted to her husband and family and cared for those around her. She brought happiness with her smile, warmth and love to the hearts and lives of her family and friends. Kay was known to spend countless hours working on her water garden and entertaining all who came to share the beauty she created with Max. Her spirit will live on in her family, children and grandchildren.

Kay is now at peace as the Lord holds her in his heart.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held Thursday, June 25, 2009, at 11 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn with Father Babasino Fernandez officiating. Burial will be in Auburn Catholic Cemetery.

Calling is Wednesday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo and one hour prior to the service Thursday at the church.

A rosary will be recited at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to Masses to the church or DeKalb County Heart Association.

Elizabeth Paradise

AUBURN — Elizabeth C. Paradise, 96, of Auburn died Friday, June 19, 2009, at Betz Nursing Home.

Mrs. Paradise moved from Minnesota to the Calumet Region in 1936. She was employed by the Inland Steel Co. in East Chicago for more than 20 years. Prior to her employment at Inland, she worked for the Anderson Co. and the American Fair Trade Council, both of Gary.

She was a longtime member of the First Baptist Church of Hammond. She and her husband moved to Auburn in 1973 and were members of Lakewood Park Baptist Church and were active at the Heimach Senior Center.

She was born in Round Lake, Minn., on July 8, 1912. She married Howard W. Paradise on Oct. 26, 1935, in Duluth, Minn. He died in 1994.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Wayne and Pamela Paradise of Auburn; two daughters and sons-in-law, Barbara and Norman Porter and Karen and Robert Rosenau, all of Tucson, Ariz.; seven grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Jim and Carl Grier; a grandson, Steven Porter; and two great-grandchildren, Michael and Samantha Porter.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Service. 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Chapel Lawn Memorial Gardens in Schererville, Ind.

Calling will be from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Thursday and one hour prior to services Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Lakewood Park Baptist Church or Heimach Center.

John Gephart II

PLEASANT LAKE — John R. Gephart II, 38, of Pleasant Lake died Friday, June 19, 2009.

John was born on July 29, 1970. in Decatur, Indiana. to John R. and Diane (Gase) Gephart.

Mr. Gephart was a self-employed flooring installer.

John married Chris Spitler on July 8, 1991. in Fremont, Indiana, and she survives.

John was a member of the Certified Flooring Installers Association.

He loved fishing.

Surviving John are his mother Diane of Angola; his wife, Chris of Pleasant Lake; his sons, Jeremi Nichols of Fort Wayne and David "Davey" Mallott of Coldwater, Michigan; his daughters, Aamber Malott of Fort Wayne and Brittni and Galeena Gephart, both of Pleasant Lake; his brother, Chad Gephart of Angola, two sisters, Tina McCorkle of Seminole, Florida, and Paula Perry of Waterloo, Indiana; a grandmother, Annabelle Gase of Decatur, Indiana; and five grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, John R. Gephart on October 29, 2008; and a nephew, Jerry D. Coler II on July 22, 2000.

Graveside services will be Wednesday June 24, 2009 at 10 a.m. in the Greenlawn Cemetery in Orland, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers, the family request memorials to the Brittni and Galeena Gephart trust fund, C/O Farmers State Bank of Angola.

Arrangements entrusted to the H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home of Angola.

Joan Hillegass

GARRETT — Joan B. Hillegass, 79, of Garrett died at 11:07 p.m. Monday, June 22, 2009, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mrs. Hillegass was a homemaker and had been a Garrett resident since 1962.

She was a member of the First Church of Christ in Garrett, Monday Bowlerette League, and T.O.P.S. She was a former Cub Scout leader.

Mrs. Hillegass

She was born Nov. 16, 1929, in Wabash to Russel L. and Eloise N. (Long) Windle. They preceded her in death.

She married Robert L. Hillegass on Dec. 6, 1958, in Kendallville and he survives in Garrett.

Surviving with her husband are two daughters and sons-in-law, Margaret "Peggy" and Ron Snyder of Urbana, Ohio, and Barbara and Craig Strock of Garrett; a son and daughter-in-law, Robert A. and Amy Hillegass of Waterloo; two sisters, Janice Payton of Corunna and Nadine Walker of Monticello; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Elma Buss; and a grandson.

Funeral services will be at 4 p.m. Thursday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett with Pastor L. Joe Fichtner officiating. Burial will take place at a later date.

Calling will be both before and after the services Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m.

Memorials are to stroke research in care of the American Heart Association.

Send condolences or sign the on-line register book by visiting the Web site thomasfuneralhome.org.

Elizabeth Paradise

AUBURN — Elizabeth C. Paradise, 96, of Auburn died Friday, June 19, 2009, at Betz Nursing Home.

Mrs. Paradise moved from Minnesota to the Calumet Region in 1936. She was employed by the Inland Steel Co. in East Chicago for more than 20 years. Prior to her employment at Inland, she worked for the Anderson Co. and the American Fair Trade Council, both of Gary.

Mrs. Paradise

She was a longtime member of the First Baptist Church of Hammond. She and her husband moved to Auburn in 1973 and were members of Lakewood Park Baptist Church and were active at the Heimach Senior Center.

She was born in Round Lake, Minn., on July 8, 1912. She married Howard W. Paradise on Oct. 26, 1935, in Duluth, Minn. He died in 1994.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Wayne and Pamela Paradise of Auburn; two daughters and sons-in-law, Barbara and Norman Porter and Karen and Robert Rosenau, all of Tucson, Ariz.; seven grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Jim and Cal Grier; a grandson, Steven Porter; and two great-grandchildren, Michael and Samantha Porter.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Service. 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Chapel Lawn Memorial Gardens in Schererville, Ind.

Calling will be from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Thursday and one hour prior to services Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Lakewood Park Baptist Church or Heimach Center.

Timothy Oliver

KENDALLVILLE — Timothy "Tim" D. Oliver, age 56, of Kendallville, Ind., passed away Tuesday, June 23, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne, Ind.

The family will meet friends on Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the D. L. Miller Funeral Home, 258 W. Monroe, Bangor, Mich., where funeral services will be 11 a.m. Saturday with Pastor Theron Crawford officiating.

Mr. Oliver

According to his wishes cremation will follow the services.

The family suggests memorials to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.dlmillerfuneralhome.com

Tim was born August 24, 1952, in Port Huron, Mich., the son of the Rev. Jack and Carolyn (Anger) Oliver. He grew up in the South Haven, Mich., area where he graduated from South Haven High School.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and later graduated from Liberty University and retired from Cooper Standard Automotive in Auburn, Ind.

Tim loved spending time with his grandchildren, Kayla, Charissa, Shalana, Trenton, Allie, Dylan, Courtney, and Ava and was looking forward to the arrival of a new grandson in September.

Surviving are his wife, Billie (Cleverly) Oliver whom he married May 23, 1991, in Nashville, Tenn.; two sons, Timothy (Jeannie) Oliver of Ypsilanti, Mich., and Nicholas Oliver of Tigard, Ore; a daughter, Amy (Craig) Jenkins of Villa Park, Ill.; four stepchildren, Jessica (Rinehart) and Chris Scheurich of Waterloo, Ind., Jason Rinehart, Nichole (Hagerty) and Ryan Hull of Kendallville, Ind., and Shaun Hagerty of Churubusco, Ind.; eight grandchildren; his mother, Carolyn of South Haven; two brothers, Gary Oliver and Ron (Carol) Oliver, both of South Haven; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Rev. Jack Oliver; two sisters, Jacqueline Oliver and Frances Marie (Oliver) Hall; and a niece, Kimi Marie Hall.

Helen Gebo

GARRETT — Helen F. "Granny" Gebo, 85, of Garrett died at 2:21 a.m. Wednesday, June 24, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Graveside service will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Park Cemetery in Greenfield, Ind.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Friday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett and one half hour prior to services at the cemetery.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association.

You may send a condolence or sign the online register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org

Eric Fuller

LEO — Eric S. Fuller, 39, of Leo died Wednesday at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with the Rev. Kevin Boyd officiating.

Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Margaret Jensen

LAKE TOXAWAY, N.C. — Margaret "Peg" Jensen, 88, of Lake Toxaway died Monday, June 22, 2009, at her home following a lengthy illness.

Mrs. Jensen had lived in Lake Toxaway the past 18 years and previously in Chicago and San Francisco and in Indiana and Florida.

She attended St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Ind., and retired as an advertising executive, supported numerous wildlife rights organizations, and was an avid sports enthusiast.

A native of LaCrosse, Wis., she was the daughter of the late J.C. and Itha Brown Jensen.

Peg leaves behind special friends, Pat Ray of Lake Toxaway, N.C., and Martha Chambless of Pigeon Forge, Tenn.; and several cousins in LaCrosse, Wis., and California.

A celebration of life was held at her home in Lake Toxaway on Thursday, May 25 with the Rev. Marcus Dodson officiating.

The burial and graveside services will be in Auburn, Ind., at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are to Transylvania Regional Hospital, P.O. Box 1116, Brevard, NC 28712.

Send condolences online to www.ashevillemortuaryservices.com.

THE EVENING STAR

June 28 2009 Auburn, Indiana

High school athlete grew into loving father, friend

BY JENNY KOBIELA-MONDOR
ennyk@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Marilyn Carr keeps a 4-inch-thick scrapbook chronicling her husband's athletic achievements from high school, but says the most important thing about Harold Carr is that he was a great father and a great friend.

Harold "Curly" Carr died June 3 with his family by his side. He was 73.

Mr. Carr

Carr played on the county champion Butler High School Windmills basketball team in 1954 and also ran track. Marilyn Carr has kept all of his ribbons, rosters, athletic schedules and ticket stubs from his years in high school sports.

"He had a lot of accomplishments," she said.

But Harold Carr's story was just beginning when he graduated from Butler High School in 1954. He went to work at Universal Tool and Stamping in Butler, where he worked for 12 years and earned his journeyman's license for tool and die work. He then transferred to Rieke Corp. in Auburn and worked in the machine shop until he retired in 1997.

A few years after retiring, Harold Carr enjoyed driving for the Ben Davis car dealership.

He married Marilyn on Sept. 9, 1956, and the couple had seven children.

Marilyn Carr said that her husband loved to go on vacations with the family.

"We had time together, and we spent it with the family, because they grew up awful fast," she added.

The family traveled to a variety of places around the country, including Wisconsin Dells, North and South Dakota, Maine, Florida, North and South Carolina and even as far as California one year.

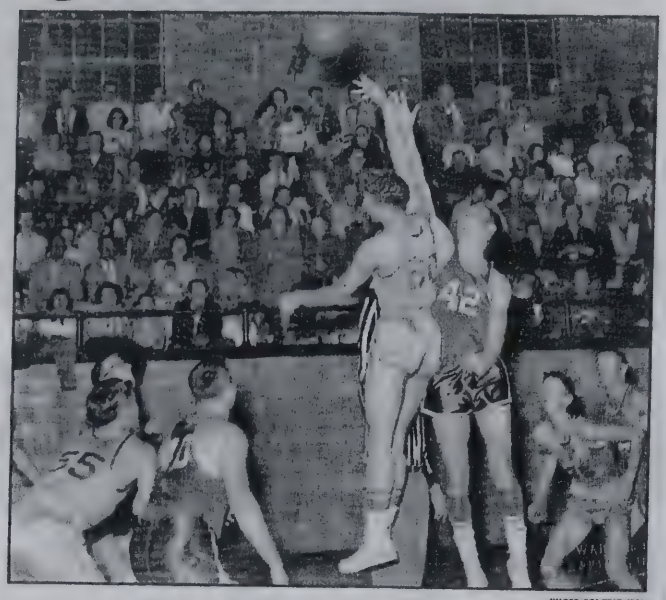


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Harold Carr, in the No. 50 jersey, plays basketball for the Butler Windmills in high school.

"We always went as a family, and we'd camp," she said. "He was an excellent cook, and a very good father. He was really a good guy."

Marilyn Carr said her husband was generally "easygoing," but before vacations he'd get the children together and "set them down and give them lectures on what we are and are not going to do."

The lectures worked, she said.

"We even had compliments at this one restaurant when all the children were small," she said. After eating a meal together, a waitress told the couple, "I have never seen so many that were so well-behaved."

"That makes you feel good," Marilyn Carr said.

The family stayed close as their children grew up and had families of their own. Harold and Marilyn Carr have 37 grandchildren and 42 great-grandchildren. Family holidays also included Harold Carr's sisters, Marilyn Carr said.

"It was just a close family, and we're still a close family," she said. "In fact, I don't know what I would have done without them, because they were here 24-7 when he was ill."

Harold Carr also had a lot of friends, although he did not generally like to join clubs, Marilyn Carr said.

The couple belonged to a euchre club of seven or eight couples, and had numerous friends they enjoyed dining and socializing with.

"He had a lot of friends, and I guess you never realize that until someone passes away like he did," Marilyn Carr said. "We realize as we get older and things like this happen, we are blessed to have friends."

Tamara Reichmann

AUBURN — Tamara L. Reichmann, 51 of Auburn died Thursday, June 25, 2009, at her residence.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Calling will be from 5-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

Kermit Farrington Jr.

GARRETT — Kermit Eugene "Gene" Farrington Jr., 72, of Garrett, died at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 27, 2009 at Hickory Creek, Kendallville where he had been a resident for the past four years.

He was born Feb. 26, 1937 in DeKalb County, Indiana to Kermit E. Farrington Sr. and Margrete (Kaellner) Farrington. They preceded him in death.

He married Joyce Ann Smith on Dec. 12, 2003 in Auburn, Indiana and she survives in Garrett.

Gene was employed as a heavy equipment operator in Indiana, Michigan and Texas from 1955-1980. He was a truck driver for the movie industry in California from 1980 until 2001 when he retired and returned to Garrett.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Garrett, Indiana.

Gene is survived by his wife, Joyce Ann Farrington; a brother, Tom Farrington; and a sister, Margaret Farrington, all of Garrett, Indiana.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 30, 2009 at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett.

Funeral services will take place at 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 1, 2009 at Thomas Funeral Home, with the Rev. David Mix officiating. Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Memorials are to the First Baptist Church of Garrett, Alzheimer's Research or Hickory Creek Activity Department.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting thomasfuneralhome.org.

Tamara Riechmann

AUBURN — Tamara L. Riechmann, 51, of Auburn died Thursday, June 25, 2009, at her home.

Mrs. Riechmann was a homemaker. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 97 of Auburn.

She was born Dec. 11, 1957, in Auburn. She married Jeff Riechmann on June 23, 1999, in Louisville, Ky. He survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are her mother and stepfather, Imogene and Raymond Tracey of New Port Richie, Fla.; three daughters, Michelle Perry of New Port Richie, Rebekah Riechmann of Hollywood, Fla., and Carrie Riechmann of Auburn; three brothers, David Heyman of Goshen, Nick Heyman of Kendallville and Tim Heyman of Butler; three sisters, Cindy Hoover of Edgerton, Ohio, Deeanda Holtzberg of St. Joe and Tina Staley of Florida; and three grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father, David Heyman, and one sister, Laurie Degan.

Services will be 2 p.m. Thursday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating.

Calling will be from 5-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the American Cancer Society.

Bernard Iler

ROME CITY — Bernard "Barney" Iler, 82, of Rome City died on his birthday, Saturday, June 27, 2009, at Parkview Memorial Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Mr. Iler

Mr. Iler was born in LaOtto on June 27, 1927, to Perry and Agnes (Franta) Iler. He graduated from Kendallville High School.

Mr. Iler served his country in the United States Army during WWII stationed in Kassel, Germany, as a medical technician. He ruturned to the Rome City area after the war and worked for McCray Refrigeration and Cold Storage Co. in Kendallville, Albion Wire in Albion, Dana in Fort Wayne and Stanadyne in Garrett over the years.

During his younger years liked to show and train quarter horses and he liked to play cards and games. He was an avid Indiana University basketball fan.

Survivors include one brother and sister-in-law, Perry and Marilyn Iler of Green Valley, Ariz; one sister; Dorothy Parker of Auburn; two nephews and a spouse, Jeff Parker of Auburn and Pat and Jackie Iler of Silver Spring, Md.; two nieces and a spouse, Melanie "Lanie" Bergstrom of Auburn and Jayne and David Shankle of Pasadena, Md.; three great-nieces, Michelle "Shelly" Bergstrom of Auburn, Colleen Iler of Silver Spring and Ginger Rowe of Collidge, Ariz.; three great-nephews; Kevin Iler of Silver Spring, Adam and Kaciemarie Parks of Glen Burnie, Md. and Ben Shankle of Charleston, W.Va.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother-in-law, Mel Parker; and his niece's husband, Rick Bergstrom.

Visitation will be Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville. Funeral Services will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Preferred memorials may be made to Parkview Hospice, 1900 Carew St. Suite 6, Fort Wayne IN 46805.

To view a video tribute by Wednesday, July 1, 2009, or send condolences to the family, go to www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Kelly Smith

WOLCOTTVILLE — Kelly L. Smith, 41, of Wolcottville drowned Saturday, June 27, while swimming at Dallas Lake.

Mrs. Smith and her husband, Jeff, had lived in Kimmell for 15 years before moving to Westler Lake five years ago.

Mrs. Smith

She had been a Title 1 reading teacher for the past two years at Wolcott Mills Elementary School in Wolcottville and Lima-Brighton Elementary School in Howe.

Mrs. Smith was a 2006 graduate of Indiana University with a Bachelor of Science in elementary education.

She was a member of the South Milford Church of Christ.

Mrs Smith enjoyed boating, swimming, gardening, collecting lighthouses and playing ball with her dog, Sheba.

She was born April 11, 1968, in Auburn to Roger Ransom and Judith McBride. Her father survives in Leesburg and her mother, Judy (McBride) Dietsch, survives in Edgerton, Ohio.

She married Jeffrey L. Smith on July 23, 1988, at the Sparta United Church of Christ in Kimmell. He survives.

Also surviving are a son, Anthony A. Smith of Wolcottville; a daughter, Jessica J. Smith of Wolcottville; two brothers, Roger McBride of St. Joe and Lamar Dietsch of Hicksville, Ohio; and two sisters, Brenda Patton of Hamilton and Kim Houltan of Butler.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Daniel and Alma Ransom and Ray and Esther McBride.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, July 2, at LaGrange First Church of God in LaGrange with Pastor Brad Cook and Pastor Nancy Warren officiating. Burial will be in Wolcottville Cemetery at Wolcottville.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, at Carney-Frost Funeral Home in LaGrange.

Condolences may be sent to carneyfrost@earthlink.net.

Dennis Riser

BUTLER — Dennis E. Riser, 66, died Monday, June 29, 2009, at his home.

Mr. Riser was an appliance repairman for many years, working for A&E, a division of Sears, and was owner of Riser Appliance Service.

He was born in DeKalb County on Sept. 22, 1942, to Earl Riser and Helen Laverne Rohrs.

Survivors include his father, Earl Riser of Butler; his mother, Helen Laverne Grupp of Bryan, Ohio; three sons, Bruce (Elizabeth) Riser of Kendallville, Brian Riser of LaOtto and Tom Slaughter of Wolcottville; a daughter, Dana Riser of Fort Wayne; a brother, Victor Riser of Cleveland, Ohio; and 13 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 6 p.m. Wednesday at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Dale Rabineau officiating.

Calling will be from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials are to DeKalb Hospice.

Paul Meyers

FORT WAYNE — Paul E. "Buster" Meyers, 84, died Monday, June 29, 2009, in Fort Wayne.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at D.O. McComb & Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Road, Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens, Fort Wayne.

Calling will be from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Lake George Lutheran Chapel Building Fund or Ronald McDonald House.

To sign the online guest book, go to www.mccombandsons.com.

THE EVENING STAR

July 2009 Auburn, Indiana

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Laura Rosenbury

BUTLER — Laura E. Rosenbury, 86, of Butler died Monday, June 29, 2009.

She was born July 19, 1922, in Allen County to Paul and Bessie (Boren) Freeman. She married Robert Rosenbury on October 25, 1958, in Auburn. He preceded in death on March 29, 1990.

She was a member of the Butler Eagles.

Laura is survived by two sons and a daughter-in-law, Robert and Terri Rosenbury of Auburn and Ronald Wilcoxson of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan; a sister, Betty Lemper of North Carolina; a brother, Jack Freeman of Florida; five grandchildren, Molly Rosenbury, Terry Deter, Amy Wilcoxson, Laura Evans and Thomas Wilcoxson; and a step-grandson, Shannon Hunter Rowe.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, James "Jody" Wilcoxson; two brothers, Otho and Robert Freeman; and three sisters, Helen Shutt, Louise Neiuwandt, and Phyllis Conner.

Funeral services for Laura Rosenbury will be Friday at 11 a.m. at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Michael Halferty officiating.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Condolences may be sent online to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

THE EVENING STAR

July 2 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Merritt Williams

WATERLOO — Merritt Williams, 79, passed away June 24, 2009, at his home in Plymouth, Ohio.

He was born in DeKalb County on June 27, 1929, to Merritt and Hilda (Crook) Williams and they have both passed away.

He was a U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Air Force veteran serving from 1946 to 1955. He retired as a Locomotive Engineer from B&O Railroad.

Mr. Williams was a member of Life Point Community Church in Plymouth.

He enjoyed gardening and most of all spending time with his dogs.

He married Manola Parker on October 30, 1948, in Waterloo, Ind., and she died May 16, 2006.

He is survived by two brothers and sisters-in-law, Eugene "Duke" and Pat Williams of Waterloo and Stan and Jeanette Williams of Anderson, Ind.; a sister, Emma Trenary of Butler; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, and a sister, Marjorie Sewelin.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday July 3, 2009, at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo, Ind., with the Rev. Rich Hurles officiating.

Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery at Waterloo, Ind.

Calling is 2 hours prior to the service Friday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to Life Point Community Church, 260 Riggs St., Plymouth, Ohio 44865.

THE EVENING STAR

July 3 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Frances Kearns

GARRETT — A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 18, at the United Methodist Church in Garrett for Frances Patrick Wyatt Kearns.

A reception will follow at the church.

Mrs. Kearns, 95, died May 27, 2009.

THE EVENING STAR

July 5 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Burney was always learning

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Thomas Burney's mind never stopped working, his friends and family said.

Burney, a retired professor at Tri-State University, died June 24 at age 79.

"My husband was a perpetual scholar," Sylvia Burney said. "He studied incessantly, even after he retired."

"He was the kind of scholar where he'd be into something and then go of on another tangent," Marilyn Gennett, Burney's stepdaughter, said. "Then he'd come back to what he'd be working on. He was a true academic, in that he spent a great deal of time researching a variety of different subjects, or he'd take on one subject and look at it from a number of different perspectives."

Burney and Sylvia met while she was a student at Illinois College in Jacksonville, Ill., and he came to the school to teach philosophy.

"I wasn't in any of his classes, but I was going to school there at the time," she said. After the two married in 1963, Sylvia joined Burney's tour of a number of Midwestern colleges. Burney had previously been at Lakeland College in Wisconsin, then the pair moved from Illinois College to Ohio State University, then four years later, Denison University in Granville, Ohio. After another four years, they came to Angola.

"It was no problem moving around, I liked it," said Sylvia, who's originally from London.

While Burney was initially hired at Tri-State to teach economics, he also taught courses on the philosophy of religion and comparative religion. "He was most passionate about the philosophy of religion. I could never really understand why he didn't just stick with that, but I imagine that was his father's doing." Burney's father, William, taught accounting at the University of Iowa for 40 years.

Burney actually graduated from the McCormick Seminary in Chicago and was an ordained minister, Sylvia said. "He tried having a church for a year but decided he'd rather be teaching." A member of Holy Family Episcopal Church in Angola, Burney would occasionally take on sermons there.

"He would bring a lot of the academic side into different topics, and bring out the differences in religions," Gennett said.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Colleagues and family remembered longtime Tri-State professor Thomas Burney as a man of a spectacularly expansive intellect and an inquisitive mind. Burney's wife, Sylvia, said he was particularly interested in the nature of religion.

"He felt that religion was something that was really important and that it was something that had been a problem for many people," Sylvia said. "He was interested in the ways that religions have changed over time and how it needed to be turned back to its roots."

While raising two sons (Christopher Burney of Angola and William Burney of Waterloo) kept Thomas and Sylvia busy, Sylvia said her husband always had his books to keep him company. "The man spent the majority of his time with his books," she said. "Sometimes when the boys would want to go somewhere he'd just say, 'Go ask your mother,' because he'd be so interested in what he was working on."

After Burney retired in 1994, the pair spent a year on a church mission in Honduras in 1998 where both of them spent time teaching.

While he read up on any number of different subjects, Sylvia said her husband never published, in part because he was never certain he knew enough about anything. "He would always think the answer would be within his grasp, but he was still searching."

"He was more interested in the learning part of academics than the publishing part," Gennett said.

Mark Blaz, a psychology professor at Trine, worked with Burney for 17 years.

"He was the nicest, gentlest man you'd ever meet," Blaz said. "He read constantly, and he'd update each of his courses, unlike those who just teach the same course every year. It was unusual, the amount of work he'd put in." Blaz said he was also struck by the breadth of Burney's knowledge in different subjects. "He was a polymath, he knew so much about so many different subjects. He was just very interested in all of these different things." Blaz said he'd heard from a number of people that after his retirement, Burney would spend a lot of time at the school library, just reading.

Tom Tierney team-taught a course every year with Burney and Bob Whelchel called "Art, technology and society."

"He was a very interested and engaged teacher," Tierney said of his colleague. "He was very well read on a number of different subjects. He was a true renaissance man in every sense of the word. I understand he was still running up until the last few weeks." He echoed some of what Blaz had said as well. "I think everyone who knew him would say he was an extraordinarily gentle man. One time, a student told me, off the record, that he never finished a sentence. Because he had such a fertile mind he'd always come up with an objection or a different perspective on something."

THE EVENING STAR

July 7 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Woman dies after fire

Auburn's first fire-related death since 1996

FROM STAFF REPORTS

AUBURN — A woman who was rescued from a burning house in Auburn Thursday morning has died, according to Auburn Deputy Fire Chief Michael J. Good.

Kitty Starbuck, 58, died Saturday as a result of breathing superheated air from the fire, said C.R. "Dick" Alfeld, investigator for the Allen County coroner's office. He said she apparently was smoking while using medical oxygen.

"We can't exactly pinpoint that as the cause of the fire at this time," Good said about the coroner's finding. Investigators from the Auburn Fire Department, Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office and an insurance company are continuing to search for the fire's cause.

Firefighters responded to 805 Cherokee Court, on the northeast side of Auburn, around 10:50 a.m. Thursday after neighbors reported seeing smoke and flames inside the Starbuck house. Firefighters said they found a handicapped woman in full cardiac arrest in a rear bathroom and carried her to the front yard. DeKalb EMS medics transported her to DeKalb Memorial Hospital for treatment. She then was taken to the burn unit at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne, where she died.

Mrs. Starbuck's husband, Gene Starbuck, was not at home when the fire ignited.

Good said the last fire-related death in Auburn occurred March 3, 1996, when Charles J. Bell died on Lakeshore Drive.

Cal Davis Jr.

AUBURN — Cal Davis Jr., 43, of Auburn died Monday, July 6, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Davis worked for the Auburn Foundry for 17 years. He attended the Cedar Lake Church of the Brethren in rural Auburn.

He was born Dec. 18, 1965, in Auburn to Cal Davis Sr. and Carley Lee (Back) Davis. His father survives in Auburn, and his mother preceded him in death.

Also surviving are two sons, Andrew Davis of Corunna and Mathew Davis of Corunna; one brother and sister-in-law, John P. and Pam Davis of Sweetwater, Tenn.; one sister, Wilma Davis of Auburn; two nephews; and one niece.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Joseph Davis; and one sister, Cathy Davis.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Pastor Duane Grady officiating. Burial will be in Swan Cemetery, LaOtto.

Calling will be Thursday from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association.

Kitty Starbuck

AUBURN — Kitty W. Starbuck, 58, of Auburn, died Saturday, July 4, 2009, at St. Joseph Hospital.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Hockemeyer & Miller Funeral Home, 6131 St. Joe Road, Fort Wayne.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the St. Joseph Hospital Burn Unit or Auburn Fire Department.

Mary Jane Melchi

GRABILL — Mary Jane Melchi, 83, died June 4, 2009, at Dupont Hospital in Fort Wayne.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, July 12, at 2 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville. Memorials are to the family.

THE EVENING STAR

July 7 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Cynthia Hoover

EDGERTON, Ohio — Cynthia L. Hoover, 55, of Edgerton, Ohio, died Saturday, July 4, 2009, at 10:05 p.m. in her home after an extended illness.

She was member of the Montpelier, Ohio, Eagles and Moose lodges and had been employed by A-Stamp in Bryan, Ohio, prior to her illness.

She was born May 25, 1954, in Auburn, the daughter of David and Imogene (Conley) Heyman.

She is survived by two sons, Donnie Edgar of Kendallville and John Edgar of Edgerton, Ohio; seven grandchildren; three sisters, Deeandra Holtzberg of St. Joe, Tina Staley in Florida, and Michelle Perry of New Port Richey, Fla.; three brothers, David Heyman, of Goshen, Nick Heyman of Kendallville and Tim Heyman of Butler; and her mother and stepfather, Imogene and Raymond Tracey of New Port Richey, Fla.

She was preceded in death by her father, David Heyman, and two sisters, Tamara L. Reichmann and Laurie Degan.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at the Church of Christ in St. Joe. Burial will follow in St. Joe Cemetery.

Krill Funeral Service of Edgerton, Ohio, is in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be sent and the online register may be signed at krillfuneralservice.com.

Ruth Baysinger

AUBURN — Ruth A. Baysinger, 84, of Auburn, died Tuesday, July 7, 2009, at her home.

Mrs. Baysinger worked in the production department for Sheller Globe in Grabill. She attended the Auburn Church of the Nazarene.

She was born Sept. 15, 1924, in Mishawaka to Russell D. and Goldie (Kalb) Traster. They preceded her in death.

She married Carl Baysinger on July 18, 1942, in Butler, and he died on June 15, 1988.

Surviving are four sons and daughters-in-law, Clarence Baysinger of Oklahoma, David and Marcia Baysinger of Auburn, Jack and Pat Baysinger of Auburn and Chris and Lap Baysinger of Auburn; three daughters and sons-in-law, Gloria Clark of Auburn, Carolyn and Ed Linder of Hamilton, and Phyllis Smith and Greggory Smith Sr. of Waterloo; 25 grandchildren; five stepgrandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and five stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by one brother, George Traster, and one stepbrother, Fred Schick.

Services will be 2 p.m. Saturday at the Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St, Waterloo, with the Rev. Al Black officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the National Kidney Foundation.

Forrest Brattain

PALATINE, Ill. — Forrest Charles Brattain, 93, of Palatine, Ill., died on Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2008.

Mr. Brattain was born in Garrett on May 27, 1915, to Charles and Clara (Hay) Brattain and grew up in Spencerville. His parents preceded him in death.

He married Ardelle Marge Wisel on Nov. 30, 1946, in Spencerville.

He was employed for 33 years as a metallurgist with International Harvester in Fort Wayne.

He was a licensed aviation pilot since 1931. During World War II, as a civilian, Forrest was appointed by the U.S. government as an airplane inspector based out of Baer Field. He was an avid supporter of flying interests and activities. He personally owned four different planes in Auburn and also rebuilt several planes. Forrest was an avid big game hunter and enjoying fishing. He also built three homes on his own.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Marge Brattain of Palatine; a son and daughter-in-law, Terry and Alice Brattain of Wisdom, Mont.; a two daughters and sons-in-law, Judy and Jack Bovenmyer of Palatine and Sybil and Al Marshall of Angola; grandchildren, Dave and Marcy Edwards of Mount Vernon, Ill., and Jody and Dan Dodson of Palatine; great-grandchildren, Chloe Edwards and Riley and Logan Dodson; a sister, Marvella Dilley of Auburn; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Dorothy Farver.

A memorial service will take place Saturday at 10 a.m. at Hite Funeral Home, Kendallville, with the Rev. Thomas E. Smith of Angola and Paul Friend officiating. Burial will in Orange Cemetery in Rome City.

Condolences may be left at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Hite Funeral Home of Kendallville assisted with arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR

July 10 2009 Auburn, Indiana

William Geiser

AUBURN — William Geiser, 78, of Auburn died Thursday July 9, 2009 at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was born in Garrett on Sept. 13, 1930, to William A. and Velma (Miller) Geiser.

He was an Engineer for Conrail for 31 years before retiring in 1981. He was a veteran, serving in the U.S. Navy from 1950 to 1954. He was a member of the Auburn Alliance Church.

Mr. Geiser

He married Jeanne Frank on June 24, 1951 in Auburn and she survives. Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Christopher and Brenda Geiser of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Annette and Randy Swank of Auburn, a sister Peg Ellert of Auburn, seven grandchildren, Aris Fought, Jessica Swank, Haley Drerup, Allison Graber, Ashley Geiser, Sean Geiser and Audra Geiser; and two great-grandchildren, Ayden and Avery Drerup.

Services will be 11 a.m. Monday at the Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, with the Rev. Al Black officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m. and Monday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Auburn Alliance Church.

Jerry Keener

BUTLER — Jerry Lee Keener, 76, died Wednesday, July 8, 2009.

Private family services will be held at Smith & Brown Funeral Home, Hicksville, Ohio.

THE EVENING STAR

July 12 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Family topped list for busy woman

BY JENNY KOBIELA-MONDOR
jennyk@kpcnews.net

GARRETT — Peg Waring kept busy throughout her life, but her family came at the top of her list, relatives said.

She died June 19 at the age of 78.

Mrs. Waring and her husband of nearly 55 years, Richard, moved from New York state to the north edge of Garrett in 1963. She became heavily involved in the Spinning Spools Quilt Guild and was a member of the women of the American Legion, St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett and the Auburn Garden Club. She also had been a Boy Scout and Girl Scout leader and led the 4-H Horse and Pony Club for a number of years.

"Mom came here with no one, and she made friends — deep, good friends," said her eldest daughter, Bridget Beber.

But all of her activities couldn't distract her from the most important thing in her life.

"Her family really was her life," Richard Waring said. "Any of the activities that her grandchildren did, why, she always wanted to be involved. She built her life around her four children and grandchildren."

Her four children and their spouses — daughter and son in-law, Bridget and Paul Beber of Auburn; son and daughter in-law, Richard Jr. and Deborah Waring of Kimmel; daughter and son in-law, Nanette and Scott Batey of Pleasant Lake and son and daughter in-law Henry and Diana Waring of Avilla — and her 11 grandchildren — Candace, Edward and Margaret Beber; Richard "Trey" Waring III, Kellie Waring, Colton Batey, Henry Waring Jr., Amelia, Seth, Lydia and Eric Waring — all live within 50 miles of the family farm west of Auburn.

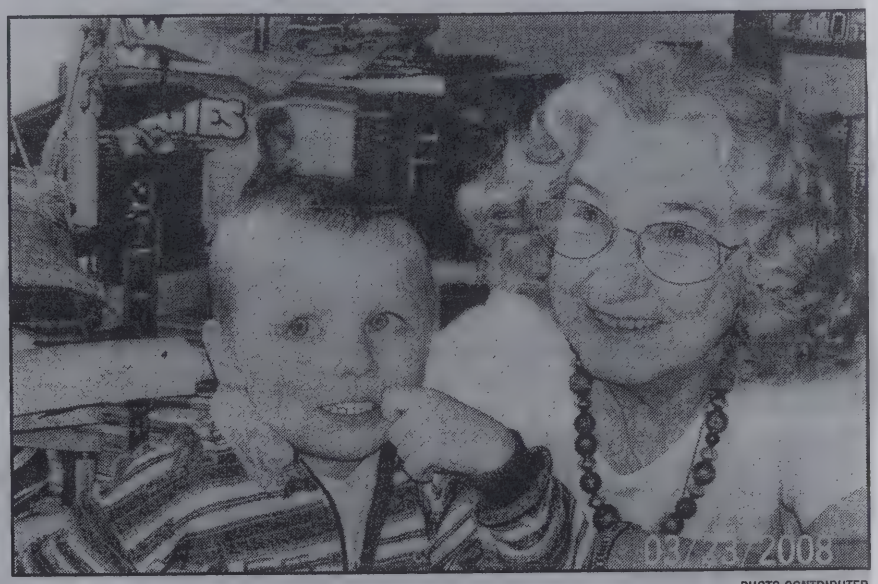


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Peg Waring smiles with her youngest grandchild, Colton Waring. Mrs. Waring died June 19.

"We were blessed, because we are all pretty close here," Richard Waring said.

"She was devoted. Everything was for us," Beber said. "She was always kind, yet strict if she had to be, and very loving, and we lacked for nothing."

Beber said her mother could do everything needed on a farm, and often ran the farm while Richard Waring was away.

"She could shovel manure with you all day, or bale hay, or drive a tractor, and then she could go in and make a chocolate tort cake with carmel dressing that would make your mouth water," Beber said. "She was wonderful. There wasn't anything she couldn't do — till a field, paint a house, sew, cook, can."

Peg Waring also was a gifted seamstress, Beber said. She made most of the clothes for her children, including Beber's first communion dress and veil, which Bebers' daughters also wore for their first communions.

Peg Waring loved animals, from the large livestock to the dogs and cats on the farm.

"She would come out and help us take care of our large livestock. She instilled a love of animals. If we had a sick kitty, she could fix it," Beber said. "Mom was a tiny little person, but when she got ahold of a horse, I tell you, that horse behaved."

She also had geese that she loved and would hand-feed.

"Anyone else, they would peck the tar out of you," Beber said.

The only animals Peg Waring didn't like were snakes.

"If she had her hoe in her hand, she'd get that snake," Beber said. "You got out of her way if there was a snake around and she had her hoe. For a little person, she could move and she was tough."

Kathryn Parker

AUBURN — Kathryn E. Parker, 90, of Auburn died Friday, July 10, 2009, following a very short stay at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Parker had been employed by Auburn Federal Savings and Loan and then at Rolf Heating and Air Conditioning in Ft. Wayne before retiring in 1985.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Auburn, and was active in their Grace Circle and was Past President of the First United Methodist Church Women's Group.

She was born Nov. 18, 1918, in Coldwater, Michigan, to John and Hazel (Dunham) St. Clair. They both preceded her in death.

She married John R. "Bob" Parker on March 14, 1947, in Coldwater, Mich., and he passed away Nov. 28, 1991.

Surviving are one son John C. Parker and companion, Beth Scheimann, of Simpsonville, S.C.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Theresa I. Parker and Bob Zlasney of Gurnee, Illinois, and Lorene K. and Mark Thiele of Auburn; one sister and brother-in-law, Lorene and Leland "Red" Zeiter of Dallas, Texas; five grandchildren, Andrew Thiele, Erin Thiele, and Nicole Thiele all of Auburn, Bobby Parker (wife Rhonda) of Peoria, Illinois, and Kathryn A. Parker of Albuquerque, New Mexico; and two great grandchildren, Mackenzie and Cecelia Parker of Peoria, Illinois.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday, July 13, 2009, at Feller-Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Wilbur Yates officiating. Burial will follow at the Oak Grove Cemetery in Coldwater, Michigan.

Calling will be at the funeral home Sunday, July 12, 2009, from 2-5 p.m. and also one hour prior to the funeral on Monday.

Memorials may be directed to the John R. and Kathryn Parker Scholarship Fund through the First United Methodist Church, 1203 East Seventh St., Auburn, or St. Martins Health Care Services Inc., 1359 S. Randolph St., Garrett.

Cordelia May

WATERLOO — Cordelia L. "Corky" May, 85, of Waterloo died Friday, July 10, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1801 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. Lloyd Bickel officiating. Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and one hour prior to the funeral service Wednesday at the church.

Memorials may be directed to the Trinity Lutheran Church, 1801 N. Main St., Auburn.

Alta Hess

AVILLA — Alta Mae Hess, 89, of Avilla died Sunday, July 12, 2009, at Parkview Noble Hospital, Kendallville.

She was an accountant and employed with Dana Corporation in Auburn for many years.

She graduated from Auburn High School in 1938.

On Feb. 17, 1920, in Auburn, she was born to the late Frank and Maude (Boyden) Martin. She married George D. Hess in Auburn on June 18, 1938. He preceded her in death in 2003.

Surviving are two granddaughters. Melanie and Dean Timmerman, LaOtto; and Patti and Robert Burden, Fort Wayne; six great grandchildren; and two nephews, Delbert Martin of Butler, and Tom Tomkinson, Fort Wayne.

There are no services or calling.

Hite Funeral Home, Kendallville, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Condolences can be sent online to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Cordelia May

WATERLOO — Cordelia L. "Corky" May, 85, of Waterloo died Friday, July 10, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. May was a secretary for Hamilton Schools for five years. She then served as secretary for the DeKalb County Extension Office for 26 years, retiring in 1985.

She was a lifelong member of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn and the Country Charm Homemakers Club.

She was born June 4, 1924, in Garrett to Herman and Selma (Griske) Diederich. She married Norbert May on Feb. 19,1946, in the St. Michael's Catholic Church, Waterloo. He survives in Waterloo.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Steven and Della May of Hopkinsville, Ky., and Timothy and Dori May of Maryville, Tenn.; one sister, Joan Swift of Hamilton; three grandchildren, Lauren and Joshua Ziolkowski, Andrea May and Aaron May; one great grandchild, Evan Ziolkowski; and two step grandsons, Christopher Hansley and Merrill Hansley, Jr.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and one brother, Gene Diederich.

Services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1801 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. Lloyd Bickel officiating. Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and one hour prior to the funeral service Wednesday at the church.

Memorials may be directed to the Trinity Lutheran Church, 1801 N. Main St., Auburn.

Grant Arnold Jr.

KENDALLVILLE — Grant Arnold Jr., 66, of Kendallville died Sunday, July 12, 2009, at 5:35 p.m. in Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Mr. Arnold

Mr. Arnold attended Liberty Freewill Baptist Church in Wolcottville.

He was retired from Reliable Tool and Machine in Kendallville after 34 years of service, and enjoyed fishing.

He was born September 14, 1942, in Logan, West Virginia, to Lenora (Browning) Arnold and Grant Arnold Sr.

Surviving are two daughters, Crystal Phillips of Kendallville and Katherine Rose Arnold of Greensboro, North Carolina; two sons, Kevin Arnold of Kendallville and James S. Arnold of Kendallville; eigh grandchildren, Jeremy, Beth Anne, James, Patty, Judy, Jeffery, Joseph and Willis; three sisters, Judy Manns of Corunna, Geneva Simpson of Corunna and Charlotte Weller of Albion; and five brothers, Ramoes Arnold of Kendallville, Jeff Arnold of Kendallville, Nick Arnold of Kendallville, Willie Arnold of Stafford, Virginia, and Sonny Belcher of Corunna.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Ethel Arnold.

Funeral services will be Thursday, July 16, 2009, at 10 a.m. in Faith Freewill Baptist Church, 321 E. Mitchell St., Kendallville, with Pastor Terry Hinds of Liberty Freewill Baptist Church in Wolcottville officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery, Kendallville.

Casketbearers will be Kevin Arnold, Sonny Belcher, Jeff Arnold, Nick Arnold, Ramoes Arnold and James Arnold.

Calling will be Wednesday, July 15, 2009, after 2 p.m. in Faith Freewill Baptist Church, Kendallville.

"In loving memory of Grant Arnold, Jr."

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;
Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,

Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,
And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.
I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I —
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

— by Robert Frost

"Grant always took the road less traveled."

Arrangements are being handled by Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Marion Myers

WATERLOO — Marion B. "Mickey" Myers, 57, died Monday, July 13, 2009, at his home in Waterloo.

Mr. Myers was a self-employed salesman.

He was born April 2, 1952, in Paris, Ky., to Alga Kenneth Myers and Mabel (Berryman) Durham. They both preceded him in death.

He married Mary Lou Howard on March 15, 1975, in Clintwood, Va. She survives in Waterloo.

Also surviving are three sons and a daughter-in-law, Gary Baysinger of Waterloo, James Baysinger of Angola and K. Doug and Heather Myers of Orland; four daughters and a son-in-law, Tina and Randy Lannet of Mississippi, Shawn Myers of Fort Wayne, Becky King of North Carolina and Patricia Dominguez of North Carolina; 18 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; two brothers, Billy Hall of Kentucky and Ricky D. Myers of Kentucky; and one sister, Frances Fahl of Auburn.

He was also preceded in death by a sister, Agnes Honaker.

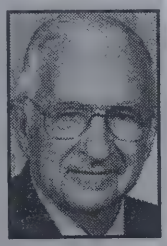
Services will be at 6 p.m. Thursday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Jess Jessup officiating.

Calling will be from 2-6 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Mary Lou Myers.

Jack Berhalter

KENDALLVILLE — Jack E. Berhalter, 86, of Kendallville died Saturday, July 11, 2009, at 6:05 p.m. in Provena Sacred Heart Home, Avilla.



Mr. Berhalter

Mr. Berhalter, a lifetime area resident, had worked 25 years at Puritan Ice Cream, two years at Berhalter Furniture Store, eight years as head custodian at East Noble High School and 10 years at Berhalter-Hutchins Funeral Home in Kendallville.

He graduated from Kendallville High School in 1941, and enjoyed participating on the reunion committee.

He was a World War II Army veteran. He served in Patton's Third Army and participated in the Battle of the Bulge.

Mr. Berhalter was a member of St. John Lutheran Church where he served as an usher for many years, Kendallville VFW Post 2749, and Kendallville American Legion Post 86. For many years he enjoyed attending his annual Army reunion, which was held in many locations across the country.

He was born March 26, 1923, in Kendallville to Thurlow A. and Dessie Belle (Gloyd) Berhalter. On Nov. 18, 1945, he married Edith J. Froelich. She preceded him in death June 22, 1952. On Sept. 13, 1953, he married Betty J. Bailey.

Surviving are his wife, Betty J. Berhalter of Kendallville; two sons and daughters-in-law, T. Alan and Cindy Berhalter of Kendallville, and Dennis and Mary Berhalter of San Antonio, Texas; two daughters and sons-in-law, Barbara and John Anible of Jenison, Mich., and Cheryl and Howard Mapes of Kendallville; eight grandchildren, Tim and Sherry Berhalter of Kendallville, John Anible II of Jenison, Mich., Danielle Anible of Jenison, Mich., Jenny and Jason Pease of Kendallville, Tiffany and Robert Nichols of Kendallville, Katie Anible of Brooklyn, N.Y., Art and Kentrina Mapes of Kendallville, Laura Mapes of Auburn; 11 great-grandchildren, Toni Berhalter, Derek Berhalter, Sierra Stout, Logan Pease, Kyndal Pease, Ashley Nichols, Becca Nichols, Kendaya Mapes, Tyler Mapes, Haydyn Mapes, Lucas Mapes; and a sister-in-law, Maxine Berhalter of Kendallille.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Joe G. Berhalter on Feb. 4, 2007; a grandson Ty Alan Berhalter; and a great-granddaughter, Kensyngten Parks Mapes.

Funeral services will be Wednesday, July 15, 2009, at 11 a.m. in Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville, with the Rev. Dr. Robert Shriner of St. John Lutheran Church officiating. Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville. Military graveside services will be provided by the Francis Vinyard VFW Post 2749 of Kendallville.

Casketbearers will be Tim Berhalter, John Anible II, Jason Pease, Robert Nichols, Art Mapes and Derek Berhalter.

Calling will be today, Tuesday, July 14, 2009, from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Wednesday, July 15, 2009, from 10-11 a.m. at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville.

Preferred memorials are to St. John Lutheran Church or Common Grace.

View a video tribute or send condolences to the family online at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Michael Thomas

GARRETT — Michael Anthony Thomas, 40, died Saturday, July 11, 2009, at his home in Garrett.

Mr. Thomas was a self-employed construction worker.

He was a member of the Butler Eagles.

He was born Nov. 1, 1968, in Harriman, Tenn., to Roy and Mary Francis (Cottrell) Thomas. His father survives in Garrett and his mother preceded him in death.

Also surviving are his companion, Kassy Harter of Garrett; nine children, David Harter, Davannah Harter, Davon Harter, Danthony Harter and Damion Harter all of Garrett, and Kayla Jeffers, Shyanna Jeffers, Cody Jeffers, and Lexi Jeffers all of Tennessee; one sister, Michelle Thomas of Garrett; and one granddaughter.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St, Auburn, with the Rev. Ron Stambaugh officiating. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery in Garrett.

Calling will be from noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the family in care of Roy Thomas.

Helen Sherer

BUTLER — Helen Mae Sherer, 90, of Auburn, passed away on Tuesday, July 14, 2009, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

Helen was born on February 20, 1919, to John W. and Fae Leota (Gregory) Jackson at Burkburnett, Texas.

She graduated from Sherman High School in 1937 and worked as a telephone operator. After World War II started, Helen went to work as a riveter in an airplane factory where they made B 24s and B 32s. After she met her future husband, Alfred Sherer, she enlisted in the Women's Army Air Corps. She was stationed at Lubbock and Fort Worth, where she did office work.

Late in 1944, Helen requested overseas duty and she received overseas training in Des Moines, Iowa. The war ended the day before Helen was to be shipped out to the Pacific Theater of the war. Instead she was sent to Indian Town Cap, Pa., where she typed discharges for returning service personnel. She worked seven days a week and earned a medal for meritorious service. She left the service as a T-5 technician, fifth class and earned the good conduct, American Theater, and victory medal.

Prior to retirement, Helen worked as a library aide for Eastside Junior and Senior High School in Butler.

Helen was married to Alfred F. Sherer on March 3, 1946, in Haviland, Ohio. Helen is survived by her husband; five children, Frank (Judy) Sherer of Indianapolis, Ind., Dr. Jerry (Debbie) Sherer of Cut Bank, Mont., Linda (Marty) Quick of Angola, Vickie (Keith) Johnson of Cadillac, Mich., and Tammy Foster of Auburn; 11 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; a sister, Bettye Kent of Fort Worth, Texas, and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, J.W. Jackson and Johnny Jackson; and two sisters, Eloise Savage and Delores Montante.

She was a member of the John Houlton Chapter DAR and had served as librarian and historian for the chapter. She had a great interest in family history research and traced some branches of the family tree back to the 1500s.

Helen was a past member of the Steuben County Church of Christ. She had served as a Sunday School and Vacation Bible School teacher.

Visitation will be at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home in Butler from 3-7 on Friday.

Funeral services for Helen Sherer will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be in the Blue Creek Cemetery in Paulding County, Ohio.

Preferred memorials are to the donors choice.

Friends may send condolences or view a video tribute at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Ella Merriman

AUBURN — Ella "Wanda" Merriman, 75, of Auburn died Tuesday, July 14, 2009, at Saint Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Merriman was a nurse at Lutheran Hospital for 20 years and had also worked as a bookkeeper at Custom Wood Products.

Mrs. Merriman

She was a member of Calvary United Methodist Church in Fort Wayne, and a member of the Eastern Star.

She was born Dec. 11, 1933, in Chattanooga, Tenn. She married Eugene L. Merriman Aug. 5, 1956, in Fort Wayne and he preceded her in death in 2008.

Surviving are three daughters, Patricia "Lee" Fleming of Auburn, Pamela Halterman of Garrett and Gay Lynn Martz of Ossian; a son-in-law, Dennis Fleming of Auburn; a brother, Donald (Sandi) Wilson of Mary Estor, Fla.; grandchildren, Traci (Andrew) Wallace of San Antonio, Texas, James and Eugene Martz of Fort Wayne and Daniel (Taryn) Fleming of Auburn; great-grandchildren, Layten Martz of Fort Wayne, Tressen Martz of Fort Wayne, Tony Wallace of San Antonio, Texas, and Reece of San Antonio, Texas.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Frances Brown; two brothers, James and Bradley Brown; and a sister, Jackie Lowrey.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev Joe Laher officiating.

Entombment will be in Covington Memorial Gardens.

Calling will be two hours prior to the service.

Memorials are to Crestridge Camp for Girls in Ridgecrest, N.C.

THE EVENING STAR

July 18 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Sharon Treesh

GARRETT — Sharon A. Treesh, 51, of Garrett died Thursday, July 16, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Ms. Treesh

Ms. Treesh worked in the X-ray department for the DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn for the past 30 years.

She was a member of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Garrett. She also volunteered for the Hand in Hand organization in Albion.

She was born June 18, 1958, in Auburn to Herman Seigel Jr. and Glenice (Zook) Seigel. Her father preceded her in death and her mother survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are her fiance, Ralph Daley of Garrett; one son, Joseph Treesh of Garrett; one daughter, Janessa Treesh of Garrett; one sister, Deborah Brown of Fort Wayne; one brother and sister-in-law, Steven and Cheryl Seigel of Auburn; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Evangelist James Miller officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-7 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Joseph and Janessa Treesh trust fund in care of Wells Fargo.

Joanne Burchett

BUTLER — Joann K. Burchett, 64, of Butler died Thursday, July 16, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

Memorial services will be at 4 p.m. Monday at Maple Grove Church, 806 Main St., Topeka.

Private burial will be at a later date.

Memorials are to Special Olympics, 1133 19th St., NW, 12th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20036-3604.

Yeager Funeral Home in Ligonier is in charge of arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR

July 19 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Howell touched lives as teacher, friend

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Carol Howell brought a gentle and caring hand and a humorous heart to hundreds of Steuben County youths during her more than 30 years as a speech pathologist for the Metropolitan School District of Steuben County.

Howell died July 6 after a long illness.

Howell came to Angola following her graduation from Ball State in 1961, and married her husband, John, a year later. The pair had been together for three years before the move to the city.

"She came here for her first job, and it became her only job," John said.

Howell would travel to several elementary schools, as well as Angola Middle School, to teach, her husband said. Cindy Benfer was a long-time colleague of Howell's in the MSD schools.

"She was very good at what she did," Benfer said. "You could see the progress, and that she was a caring teacher who cared a lot about her students."

Jackie Van Rooyen is a longtime nurse in the school district.

"She would push her kids to work hard," Van Rooyen said. "She was compassionate, but she didn't allow her students to sit back and slack off. She usually got them to reach their goals by encouraging them. She had a real sense of understanding where the kids were coming from, and that they'd require different approaches."

Carol Howell touched many lives as a speech pathologist for MSD of Steuben County, including a number of teachers for whom she was a model of friendship. Here she is with her husband of 46 years, John.

Both Benfer and Van Rooyen said Howell brought an effervescent personality to the school, which made life a joy for her fellow teachers.

"She had a great sense of humor," Benfer said. "It was not uncommon for teachers come and congregate around her to get some laughs in. She was always smiling and happy." However, Benfer said her friend could also use her faith to inspire others in low moments. "She'd be there to pull you back up," she said.

Van Rooyen called Howell her "biggest cheerleader," and "one of my dearest and closest friends."

"She didn't just tell you what you wanted to hear, but instead she'd give you a deep, meaningful examination of ideas," Van Rooyen said. "And she'd always end the conversation, 'I love ya.' I know she's dancing in heaven now, I know that."

Howell's mother, Louise Knudsen, said her daughter was always intellectually curious.

"She was always very good in school. She had good grades all the way through," Knudsen. "We were a very close mother and daughter. We did many things together. We'd visit or have friends in and make food."

John said he and his wife were usually content to stay home together, though they both had joined fraternal organizations. Even after he left the Moose, his wife stayed a part, if only to have a place to eat, Howell said.

"Being a traveling teacher, she didn't like to carry her lunch around, her classroom was kind of on her back," he said. "But usually we just enjoyed each other."

Howell began suffering from a blood disorder in 2002, which cost her the use of her legs and limited the use of her arms. John said their home was essentially rearranged to accommodate Carol's medical needs. But, he said, it was something he wanted to do.

"She made our home a happy one. We devoted ourselves to one another," John said. "She touched a lot of lives around here because of the number of students she'd helped."

Luetta Carper

AUBURN — Luetta B. Carper, 79, of Auburn died Saturday July 18, 2009, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Carper was an operator for Indiana Bell in Auburn, retiring in 1978 after 30 years of service. After her retirement from Indiana Bell, she went to work at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

She was a 1947 graduate of Ashley High School.

She was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn. She also was a member of the Ladies of the Moose Lodge 566 of Auburn.

She was born Aug. 22, 1929, in DeKalb County to Albert and Margaret (Dibbling) Dapp. They both preceded her in death.

On Aug. 27, 1949, she married Harold L. "Hank" Carper in St. Michael's Catholic Church, Waterloo. He passed away Dec. 15, 2000.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Dennis and Kathy Carper of Auburn; a brother, Donald Dapp of Auburn; and three grandchildren, Michael and Stephanie Carper, Kristy Carper, and Kelly Carper.

Services will be held 11:30 a.m. Thursday in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn, with Father Babasino Fernandes officiating. Burial will be in the Catholic Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2 - 4 and 6 - 8 p.m. Wednesday in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 South Center St., Auburn, and one hour prior to the funeral mass on Thursday at the church. A rosary service will be held at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in the funeral home.

Memorials are to the church for masses or a charity of the donor's choice.

Vera Everetts

HAMILTON — Vera L. Everetts, 96, died Saturday, July 18, 2009, at Parkview Memorial Hospital, Fort Wayne.

She was born on Jan. 12, 1913, in St. Joe to Harlo "Jack" and Carrie Bleeks Sechler. Vera graduated from Hamilton High School. She married Theodore G. Everetts on April 25, 1931 in Butler, he preceded her in death on April 22, 1982. She was a homemaker and lived on the farm most of her life.

Survivors include two sons and a daughter-in-law, Olus "Buzz" and Margaret Everetts of Edgerton, Ohio, and Ted Everetts of Hamilton; two daughters and sons-in-law, Peggy and Roy Fry of Swanton, Ohio, and Kay and Dennis Fee of Angola; a sister, Susie Reinoehl of Garrett; eight grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and 14 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Waldo and Walter Sechler; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Graveside services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Eddy Cemetery, rural Hamilton, with Pastor Mike Halferty officiating.

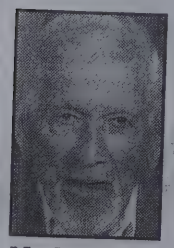
Preferred memorials are to the donor's choice.

Arrangements are by H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler.

James Draggoo

FREMONT — James Edward Draggoo, 88, of Fremont died at home July Saturday, July 18, 2009.

He was a retired sheet metal worker for Sheet Metal Local 20, Fort Wayne, and formerly an owner of the Olinger Furnace & Sheet Metal. Auburn.



Mr. Draggoo

He graduated from St. Joe High School and formerly lived in St. Joe, Auburn and Orland and at Jimmerson Lake. He was a member of Nevada Mills United Methodist Church, the Auburn Masonic Lodge and York rite. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II and a 30-year member of the Orland American Legion Post 423. While in the army, he served in the Asiatic Theater and the China, Burma and India campaign.

He enjoyed doing sheet metal work and stone masonry, cutting wood, fishing, hunting and NASCAR.

Mr. Draggoo was June 1, 1921, in Concord Township, DeKalb County to Lloyd and Marie (Leighty) Draggoo. They preceded him in death. On July 28, 1945, in Auburn he married Alice M. Boger. She survives in Fremont.

Also surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Tom and Cathy Draggoo of Woodbridge, Va., Rex and Roxanna Draggoo of Hudson and Andrew Dragoo of Fremont; a sister, Eloise Morr of Springfield, Ohio; and three grandchildren, Jennifer Draggoo of Dumfries, Va., Bethany Chang of Jacksonville, Fla., and Benay Draggoo of Fremont.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Nevada Mills Untied Methodist Church, Nevada Mills, the Rev. Duane Stidham officiating. Burial with military committal services by members of Orland American Legion Post 423 will be at Greenlawn Cemetery, Orland.

Calling will be 5-8 p.m. Tuesday at Beams Funeral Home, Fremont.

Memorials are to the Orland American Legion.

Condolences may be sent online to beamsfuneral-home.com.

THE EVENING STAR
July 21 2009 Auburn, Indiana

JEFF JONES

Brooke L. Peters, 20, of Hamilton died Monday while driving this car, which was struck from behind and pushed into the path of a dump truck, which hit it in the driver's side, police said.

Crash kills driver

Hamilton woman, 20, dies at scene

WATERLOO — A Hamilton woman died in a three-vehicle crash Monday on U.S. 6, west of Waterloo, DeKalb County Police said.

Brooke L. Peters, 20, of the 400 block of Lane 101, Hamilton Lake, was killed when her car was struck by an oncoming dump truck at 4:54 p.m.

Police said Peters was driving eastbound on U.S. 6 in a 2000 Buick Park Avenue and had stopped, waiting to turn left onto C.R. 24.

Her car was struck from behind by a 2008 Honda Accord, pushing it into the path of the westbound 1995 Ford dump truck. The truck hit Peters' car in the driver's side, causing her fatal injuries, police said.

The driver of the Honda Accord, Tony L. Baker, 43, of the 3000 block of C.R. 39, Waterloo, reported chest pain after the crash. The driver of the dump truck Jack R. Souder, 52, of Bluffton, did not report any injuries, police said.

DeKalb County Police investigated. The Waterloo Marshal's Department, Waterloo Fire Department, DeKalb EMS, Indiana State Police and DeKalb County coroner assisted at the scene.

Lexington Graves

SPENCERVILLE — Lexington Love Graves, 3 months, died Friday, July 17, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn

She was born April 8, 2009, in Auburn to Paul A. and Rebecca R. (Boyer) Graves. They survive in Spencerville.

Lexington Graves

Also surviving are seven brothers, Ashtyn Graves, Jayden Graves, Chevy Graves, Bryceton Graves, Drayton Graves and Graistyn Graves, all of Spencerville, and Justin Graves of Indianapolis; two sisters, Kensington Graves of Spencerville, and Ashley Graves of Fort Wayne; paternal grandparents, Paul and Marge Graves of Auburn; maternal grandparents, Peter and Nancy Boyer of St. Anne, Ill., and Debra Gibbs of Defiance, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandfather, Michael Gibbs.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Auburn Church of the Nazarene, 2301 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. Dan White officiating. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery, St. Joe.

Calling will be from noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday at the church.

Memorials may be directed to Rebecca Graves to help with headstone expenses.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Mary Vauris

GARRETT — Mary Helen Vauris, 91, of Garrett died Friday, July 3, 2009, in Clermont, Fla.

She was a lifetime area resident

Mrs. Vauris had worked for Dr. John Harvey for many years.

She was born March 3, 1918, in Garrett to Charles and Helen (Loftus) Carlin. She married Howard Leon Vauris in 1936. He died in 1980.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Richard B. and Travis Vauris of Clermont, Fla.; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Charles and Pat Carlin of South Bend and Joe and Marty Carlin of Gaylord, Mich.; a sister, Sally Ridlen of Fort Wayne; two granddaughters; and three great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with Father Andrew Nazareth officiating.

Memorials are to Cornerstone Hospice, 2445 Lane Park Road, Tavares, Fla. 32778.

Ralph Cunningham

AUBURN — Ralph M. Cunningham, 93, died Thursday, July 16, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Services will be at 1 p.m. today at Greenville United Methodist Church in Greenville, Ind.

Calling will be from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. today at the church.

Burial will be in Greenville Cemetery at 2 p.m. today

Memorials are to the church or charity of the donor's choice.

Brooke Peters

HAMILTON — Brooke Lynn Peters, 20, of Hamilton died Monday, July 20, 2009, from injuries she received in an automobile accident on U.S. 6 west of Waterloo.

Miss Peters was a student at Marquette University in Milwaukee and she was taking summer classes at Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne. She was a 2008 graduate of Hamilton High School where she participated in many activities, both athletically and scholastically.

Miss Peters

She was born April 24, 1989, in Fort Wayne, Ind. Her father, Charles Peters, is from Monroeville. Her mother, Tonya (Busick) Peters, and her companion, Stan Atha, live in Hamilton.

Also surviving are a brother, Logan Peters of Hamilton; two half brothers, Jason Peters of Auburn and Jamison Peters of Fort Wayne; her grandparents, Leo and Jane Busick of Woodburn; and several aunts and uncles.

Services will be 11 a.m. Saturday at the New Life Community Center in Hamilton with Jeff Alexander officiating. Burial will be in Hamilton Cemetery at Hamilton.

Calling will be from 2 to 8 p.m. Friday at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo.

Memorials are to Shriners Hospital of Chicago.

Mary Strawser

BUTLER — Mary Martha Crabb Strawser, 95, died Saturday, July 18, 2009, at Zionsville Nursing Home.

She was a former resident of Butler, Rome City and South Milford.

Burial was in the Butler Cemetery.

Betty Zern

GARRETT — Betty J. Zern, 85, of Garrett, Ind., died at 3:05 a.m. Friday, July 24, 2009, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

She was born December 17, 1923, in Garrett, Indiana, to Don and Martha (Schlueter) Zern and they preceded her in death.

She was a secretary at Wiley Export Corp. from 1943-1960 and then at Warner Gear in Auburn, Ind., from 1960-1982 when she retired.

She then worked as the secretary at the Garrett Chamber of Commerce for 20 years.

She was a member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Garrett, Alpha Rho Chapter of Psi Iota Xi Sorority, Garrett Chamber of Commerce and a Girl Scout leader for 60 years, serving on the council board.

Betty was named the Garrett Citizen of the Year in 1975.

She is survived by several cousins including Wanda and John Blackerby and family of Clio, Mich., and Marcella Zern Clabaugh and family of Garrett, Ind. She is also survived by her extended church family at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and all the "girls" whose lives she touched as a Girl Scout leader.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, July 27, 2009, at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Garrett, Ind. Officiating will be the Rev. Chad Trouten. Burial will follow in Cedar Creek Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Visitation will take place from 12:30-2 p.m. Monday at the church.

Memorials are to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Garrett or the Limberlost Council of the Girl Scouts of America.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting: www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

James Uhle

AUBURN — James J. Uhle, 75, passed away Friday, July 24, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

He was born June 29, 1934, in Jackson, Mich., to the late Joseph and Alyce Mae (Lake) Uhle.

He worked at Cadillac Plastics in Auburn, Ind., for three years and in Kalamazoo, Mich., for 16 years. He also worked for four years for the New York Central Railroad in Jackson, Mich.

James also worked at various other jobs in Jackson, Mich., during his lifetime.

James was an avid Detroit Tiger baseball fan.

James served three years in the Michigan National Guard in early 1950s and served two years in the U.S. Army, with one of those years in Korea.

He married his wife, Joy A. (McNabb) Uhle, on November 2, 1963, in Calvary Lutheran Church in Angola, Ind.

He is survived by his wife, Joy, of Auburn; and a brother, Joseph M. Uhle of Jackson, Mich.

Private family services will be held.

Burial will be in Leo Cemetery.

Arrangements are by Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St. Auburn.

Richard Ort

AUBURN — Richard L. "Chip" Ort, 70, of Auburn died Thursday, July 23, 2009, at his campsite at Grand View Bend Campground in LaGrange.

Mr. Ort

He was born September 1, 1938, in Woodburn to Bert and Dora (Clark) Ort. They have both preceded him in death.

He worked for 37 years at Zollner Piston in Fort Wayne before retiring in 1997.

He was a former member of the Auburn Elks Lodge. He was a member of the Northern Indiana Boating Association, serving a year as Commodore.

Mr. Ort was a 30-year association member at Grand View Bend Campground.

He enjoyed spending time with friends at Sarge's in Mongo.

He married Nancy Snyder on September 1, 1998, in Auburn and she survives.

He is also survived by two sons and a daughter-in-law, Mike and Tina Ort of Wolcottville and Richard Ort Jr. and his fiancee, Jan Barany, of Evansville; a daughter and son-in-law, Gina and Eddie Bohannon of Indianapolis; a stepson and his wife, Terry and Mysti Graham of Henryville, Ind.; a stepdaughter, Lori Zeidan of Spring Arbor, Mich.; 15 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a brother and sister-in-law, Kenny and Mary Lou Ort of Auburn; four sisters and three brothers-in-law, Pat and Larry Baker of Auburn, Margaret and John Theil of Auburn, Helen Yeiser of St. Joe and Mary Ann and Ronnie Fisher of Topeka; and two sisters-in-law, Doris Ort of Auburn and Donna Ort of Pleasant Lake.

He was also preceded in death by a granddaughter, Lauren Hanner, and four brothers, Don, Zeke, Bob and Norman Ort.

Services will be at 6 p.m. Sunday, July 26, 2009, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn.

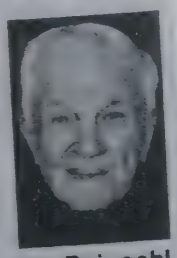
Calling is from 2 p.m. until the service at 6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home

Memorials can be directed to the American Heart Association or American Cancer Society.

THE EVENING STAR
July 25 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Harold Reinoehl

ASHLEY — Longtime educator Harold Edward Reinoehl, 94, of Ashley died Friday, July 24, 2009, at Betz Nursing Home. He lived his entire life in DeKalb County, mostly in the rural Ashley area.


Mr. Reinoehl

Mr. Reinoehl attended the elementary one-room Shipe School in Fairfield Township in DeKalb County, graduated from Ashley High School in 1933 and from Manchester College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education.

He started his teaching career in 1936 at the one-room Hartman School. At the closing of the one-room schools in Fairfield Township in 1938, Mr. Reinoehl moved to the new Fairfield Center School and remained there until he retired in 1978 after 42 years of teaching.

Mr. Reinoehl also coached baseball and basketball at Fairfield Center.

In addition to teaching, he farmed at his Ashley residence and enjoyed a day in the fields on his tractor or cutting wood.

He was a 70-year member of the St. Johns United Church of Christ near Ashley and the DeKalb County and State Retired Teachers Associations.

He was born Dec. 27, 1914, in St. Joe to John H. and Cora (Stomm) Reinoehl. He married Hilda Mae Smith on Aug. 21, 1938, and she preceded him in death on Jan. 28, 2009. They were married 70 years.

He is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Max and Sharon Reinoehl of Ashley; a daughter and son-in-law, Judy and Richard Ditmars of Auburn; five grandchildren, Todd Reinoehl and his friend Carla, Tammy and Steve Gilbert, Troy and Lara Reinoehl, Eric and Mary Ditmars and Kurt Ditmars and his friend, Jennifer; 10 grandchildren; one half brother, John Reinoehl of Angola; and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Beth and Bill Hoskins, Isabelle and Reuben Kravik, Gilbert and Barbara Smith, Jeanne Knisely, Janet Tracey, Jean Reinoehl, Van Smith, Wayne Smith and Burdette Parr.

Mr. Reinoehl was preceded in death by his wife; his parents; his stepmother, Effie Hamman Reinoehl; two brothers, Henry and Willis Reinoehl; a half brother, Paul Reinoehl; and two half sisters, Olga Taylor and Ruth Parr.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo, with the Rev. John Kabes officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery near Corunna.

Calling will be from 2-6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the St. John United Church of Christ or DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

THE EVENING STAR

July 26 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Butler mom was WWII veteran

Built airplanes that flew her future husband in Pacific

BY JENNY KOBIELA-MONDOR
jennyk@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Despite meeting the man she was going to marry in 1943, Helen Sherer waited three years to marry him, so she could serve her country in wartime.

Sherer, a longtime Butler resident, died July 14 at the age of 90.

Sherer, a Texas native, worked as a telephone operator until the beginning of World War II, when she went to work as a riveter in an airplane factory that made B-24s and B-32s. During that time, she met her husband, Alfred Sherer.

One Sunday afternoon, Alfred Sherer and his Army buddies went to the Wayside Inn in Fort Worth, Texas, and ran into a group of women. He sat down by a girl named Eloise and started to talk.

"I noted readily that we were not going to do real good," he said. But he soon clicked with Eloise's sister, Helen.

"I was rattling on, and she liked me rattling on," he said.

"She was the only one who would listen to all of Daddy's stories," said the couple's daughter, Tammy Foster of Auburn.

The pair began writing letters to each other. Alfred Sherer went to the Pacific and flew in B-24 airplanes, which Helen Sherer helped assemble.

"She was trying to make them good, so I would come back to her," he said.

Soon after meeting Alfred Sherer, Helen enlisted in the Women's Army Air Corps and was stationed at Lubbock and Fort Worth, where she did office work. Late in 1944, she requested to be assigned overseas, and trained in Des Moines, Iowa.

"Even though she was furiously in love with me, she was still going to do her duty," Alfred Sherer said.

World War II ended the day before Helen Sherer was to be shipped to the Pacific Theater. Instead, she was sent to Indian Town Gap, Pa., where she wrote discharge papers. Alfred Sherer went back to his home in Haviland, Ohio, and attended college in Findlay. Eventually, the couple boarded a bus to Haviland to visit Alfred Sherer's family.

"The word 'marriage' had never been talked about," although both had thought about it, Alfred Sherer said. "On the bus, she said, 'Aren't you going to ask me to marry you?' I said, 'Yes!'" He got down on one knee on the bus and proposed.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Helen Sherer poses with her husband, Alfred. Sherer, who served in World War II before moving to Butler with her husband, died July 14 at the age of 90.

The couple had five children — Frank, Jerry, Linda, Vickie and Tammy.

Alfred Sherer, a teacher, moved the family to Butler in 1961 to teach Spanish at Eastside Junior-Senior High School.

Helen Sherer stayed at home and raised her children. She enjoyed gardening, cooking and canning.

"She had a lot of beautiful peonies," as well as a vegetable patch and an herb garden, Alfred Sherer said.

Foster said her mother taught her and her sisters how to cook, can and iron.

"She even had us iron Daddy's handkerchiefs," she said. She never let her daughters use the pressure canner, because she was afraid it might blow up and hurt them, but they did snap beans and prepare vegetables and fruit.

"We did the prepatory work, and she did the dangerous part," Foster said.

The family enjoyed driving to Texas each year to visit Helen Sherer's family.

"Our car got fuller and fuller as the kids got bigger and bigger," Alfred Sherer said.

Once the children grew up and went to college, Helen Sherer didn't slow down. She worked as a library aide at Eastside until the couple retired. After retiring, they sold lumber from a property in Ohio until they were in their 70s and could no longer do the physical labor required.

Helen Sherer belonged to the John Houlton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and attended the Steuben County Church of Christ and the Waterloo Church of Christ. She was especially devoted to missionary work.

"Daddy told her, 'We can't feed all the starving children in the world,' but she wanted to," Foster said. Helen Sherer also told Foster that she always sent in sweepstakes entries, and said that if she won, the money would go "to spread God's word and feed the starving children," Foster said. "She didn't want any attention brought to herself."

Doris Rediger

LEO — Doris Mae Rediger, 83, of Leo died Friday, July 24, 2009, at Dupont Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Rediger

She retired from Fort Wayne Community Schools and was an avid doll collector. She was a member of Grabill Missionary Church.

She was born in Huntertown.

She is survived by two sons and one daughter-in-law, Jim Rediger of Grabill and Tom and Sherry Rediger of Leo; two daughters and sons-in-law, Cindy and Kenny Brown of Auburn and Jane and Richard Lengacher of Grabill; 12 grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren; a sister and brother-in-law, Gloria and Richard O'Connor; and three brothers and two sisters-in-law, Virgil and Margaret Herdman, Floyd and Deloris Herdman and Robert Herdman.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold, and a sister, Mary Ann Rarick.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Grabill Missionary Church, 13637 State, Grabill. Burial will be in Leo Memorial.

Calling will be one hour

Hilda Perkins

AUBURN — Hilda L. Perkins, 94, of Auburn died Saturday, July 25, 2009, at Provena Sacred Heart Home, Avilla.

Mrs. Perkins

She was born June 14, 1915, in Corunna, the daughter of the late Harley and Rosa Reynolds.

She is survived by a daughter, Sharen Ramsey of Kendallville; son and daughter-in-law, Edwin and Diane Perkins Jr. of Kendallville; brother and sister-in-law, Max and Donna Reynolds of Auburn; grandchildren Laurie and Michael Jaffey, Jeanne and Marty Loman, Greg and Brenda Perkins, Beth and Ned Broadwater and Andrew Perkins and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Edwin B. Perkins Sr., brothers, Gerald, Olen and Donald Reynolds; and a sister, Jeanette Cramer.

Services will be at noon Tuesday at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with Tom Novy officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Calling will be Tuesday from 10 a.m. until noon at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services.

prior to the service at the church and Monday from 5-8 p.m. at the church.

Preferred memorials are to Grabill Missionary Church.

Arrangements are by Hockemeyer Funeral Home.

THE EVENING STAR
July 27 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Emma Ludy

WATERLOO — Emma L. Ludy, 66, of Waterloo died Saturday, July 25, 2009, at the home of her daughter in Angola.

She was born Feb. 7, 1943, in Decatur to Achiel and Mary (Newman) Colpeart. They preceded her in death. She was a homemaker. She married Thomas J. Ludy on Oct. 10, 1969, in Decatur and he died Nov. 21, 2008.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Patrick A. and Heather Ludy of Spencerville; a daughter and son-in-law, Lori A. and Billy Abbott of Angola; a brother and sister-in-law, Glen and Karen Colpeart of Portland; a sister and brother-in-law, Ann and Ed Campbell of Brighton, Mich.; and four grandchildren.

Memorial service will be at 1 p.m. Aug. 8, 2009, at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo. Calling is three hours prior to the service from 10 a.m. until the service at 1 p.m. on Aug. 8.

Memorials are directed to The American Cancer Society.

Christopher Geiser

AUBURN — Christopher A. Geiser, 51, of Auburn died Sunday, July 26, 2009, at Estes Park Medical Center, Estes Park, Colo.

Mr. Geiser

Mr. Geiser was a maintenance mechanic for the Wal-Mart Distribution Center in Garrett.

He was a member of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Leo.

He was born April 19, 1958, in Auburn to William A. and Jeanne (Frank) Geiser. His father preceded him in death on July 9, 2009, and his mother survives in Auburn.

He married Brenda Shannon on July 23, 1977, in Auburn. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are three daughters and a son-in-law, Allison and Lynn Graber of Winter Park, Fla., Ashley Geiser of Auburn and Audra Geiser of Auburn; one son, Sean Geiser of Auburn; and one sister and brother-in-law, Annette and Randy Swank of Auburn.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Church of the Good Shepherd, 14717 Amstutz Road, Leo, with Pastor Brad Miller officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. Thursday and from 10-11 a.m. Friday at the church.

Memorials may be directed to the Missions Fund of the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Jesse Turner

AUBURN — Jesse Harold Turner, 92, of Romeoville, Ill., and formerly of Auburn, died July 24, 2009, in the Senior Star Memory Care Home in Romeoville after a short illness.

He was born in Linneus, Mo., Sept 2, 1916.

He is survived by his loving children, Paul Turner of Seattle, Wash., William Turner (MaryPat) of Bolingbrook, Ill., and Marilyn Butler (Paul) of Atlanta, Ga.; his grandchildren, Patrick Turner, Brian Turner (Michelle), Molly Turner, Stacey Turner, Eric Turner and AnnaBelle Bacon; and his great-grandchildren, Sarah Turner, Cole Turner and Mariella Turner.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mildred Turner; a daughter, Sharon Bacon; and a great-granddaughter, Megan Patricia Turner.

Funeral service will be at noon Thursday at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Visitation will be one hour prior to services.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

LaMar Ruhl

ANGOLA — Memorial services for LaMar Ruhl will be held Sunday, Aug. 2, 2009, at 1 p.m. at Lake Missionary Church, 2030 West U.S. 20, Angola.

Mr. Ruhl, 84, of Mission, Texas, and formerly of Steuben County, died Saturday, June 27, 2009, at McAllen Heart Center, McAllen, Texas.

He was born July 20, 1924, to Alfred and Florence (Rogers) Ruhl.

He was retired from Weatherhead-Dana in Angola. He was a World War II naval veteran and was a 35-year member of the Orland American Legion. He was well known as a chair maker in the Country Carvers Club and attended Penitas Baptist Church in Penitas, Texas.

Surviving are his wife, Margie, of Mission, Texas; a son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Elizabeth Ruhl of Colorado; a sister-in-law, Betty Ruhl of Auburn; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; stepmother, Glenoris (Rogers) Ruhl; two brothers and a sister-in-law, A. Duane and Fredia Ruhl, and Robert Ruhl.

Graveside services will be held at a later date.

Mary Showalter

GARRET — Mary Ann Showalter, 64, died Wednesday July 29, 2009 at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

A memorial service will be at 3 p.m. Tuesday Aug. 4, 2009 at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo with the Rev. Dan White officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be 1 hour prior to the service from 2-3 p.m. at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials are to the Kidney Foundation or the Diabetes Association.

Mary Sills

WEST OTTER LAKE — Mary Ruth Ann Sills, 66, of West Otter Lake died Tuesday, July 28, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

No services or calling.

Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services in Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR

July 31 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Deloris Lamb

FORT WAYNE — Deloris A. Lamb, 75, of Fort Wayne died Tuesday, July 28, 2009, at Regency Place.

Mrs. Lamb had retired from Kroger.

She was a member of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Suzanne and Frank Joseph of Carmel; a son and daughter-in-law, Gregory M. and Loristene Lamb of Fort Wayne; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Stephen Fischer of Fort Wayne, Donald and Connie Fischer of Fort Wayne and Charles and Sherry Fischer of Leo; and Nancy Jo Fischer of Avilla; five sisters and three brothers-in-law, Alice and Donald Huth of Fort Wayne, Barbara Hippenhammer of Avilla, Ruth and Kent Ihrie of Wolcottville, Nancy Lamb of Auburn and Harold DeLong of Auburn; grandchildren, Amanda Joseph and Austin Joseph, both of Fishers, and Angel Noel and DeAngelo Samuel, both of Fort Wayne; and a great-grandson, Anthony Wilkes of Fort Wayne.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ronald Lamb; her parents, William and Victoria Fischer; two sisters, Irene DeLong and Janette Fischer; a brother, Thomas Fischer; and a brother-in-law, Richard Hippenhammer.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 4916 Trier Road, Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Greenlawn Memorial Park.

Calling will be one hour prior to services.

Hockemeyer & Miller Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Deloris Lamb

FORT WAYNE — Deloris A. Lamb, 75, of Fort Wayne died Tuesday, July 28, 2009, at Regency Place.

Mrs. Lamb had retired from Kroger.

She was a member of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Suzanne and Frank Joseph of Carmel; a son and daughter-in-law, Gregory M. and Loristene Lamb of Fort Wayne; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Stephen Fischer of Fort Wayne, Donald and Connie Fischer of Fort Wayne and Charles and Sherry Fischer of Leo; and Nancy Jo Fischer of Avilla; five sisters and three brothers-in-law, Alice and Donald Huth of Fort Wayne, Barbara Hippenhammer of Avilla, Ruth and Kent Ihrie of Wolcottville, Nancy Lamb of Auburn, Roberta Montel of Avilla and Harold DeLong of Auburn; grandchildren, Amanda Joseph and Austin Joseph, both of Fishers, and Angel Noel and DeAngelo Samuel, both of Fort Wayne; and a great-grandson, Anthony Wilkes of Fort Wayne.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ronald Lamb; her parents, William and Victoria Fischer; two sisters, Irene DeLong and Janette Fischer; a brother, Thomas Fischer; and a brother-in-law, Richard Hippenhammer.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. today, Saturday, Aug. 1, at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 4916 Trier Road, Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Greenlawn Memorial Park.

Calling will be one hour prior to services.

Hockemeyer & Miller Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR

August 2 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Greenamyer was a bundle of energy

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

FREMONT — Lois Greenamyer made life very difficult for a string of typing teachers at Fremont High School.

Greenamyer, who at one point was the longest serving newspaper correspondent in Indiana, died July 21 at age 99.

Greenamyer, who began writing for newspapers as a junior in high school in 1925, worked as a Linotype operator for many years at the Fremont Eagle. According to her daughter, Mary Kaye Shutt, Greenamyer developed the habit of typing only with her right index finger because she got used to the very different Linotype keyboard.

"Whenever the school would get a new typing teacher, they would always end up hearing 'Why do we have to type with two hands? Lois doesn't,'" Shutt said. "She could do 50 or 60 words a minute, accurately."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Lois Greenamyer helped to raise Thomas Adams as a young man, and she remained close with his family. Adams is pictured in the front row, left, next to Greenamyer, with Adams' wife, Jerry. In the back row are the Adams' children, Courtney, Brad and Karen.

Shutt said her mother did all of her typing on the older model Royal manual typewriters. "We bought her an electric model. That lasted about three minutes. When she hit it with her finger it just went crazy."

Greenamyer also got to know many of the children of the town of Fremont by operating a school supply and candy store out of her home. "She'd buy penny candy from different suppliers and then sell it," Shutt said.

Shutt said her mother was constantly in motion. "The old undertaker n town, Howard Beams, told her he'd have to put roller skates on her casket to catch her," Shutt said. "My mother would be up 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. everyday. We used to have hardwood floors and we had someone put down the same finish they used on basketball courts, and she would still wear the finish off the floors."

Greenamyer also had a real desire to help others, her daughter said. She worked as a volunteer for many years at the Logansport State Hospital, dealing with patients at the mental health facility.

"She did it to help people who were not as fortunate as her," Shutt said. "She would always collect little gifts and things to give away there."

Thomas Adams grew up in Fremont, and Greenamyer and her husband, Earle, helped to take care of him in his formative years, and later moved into their home when they left to find someplace smaller.

"I think she helped to take care of me when I was younger," Adams said. "I knew her from way back when." In Greenamyer's later years, particularly after Earle's death in 1994, Adams became a sort of caretaker, taking her on trips with his family to see Shutt in Pennsylvania. Before that he'd ferry Greenamyer to the nursing home to see her husband, then went to visit her when she had to go in as well. "Lois called me her adopted son, then Mary Kaye did, so I was like a member of the family."

Adams said that no matter where she went, Greenamyer's winning personality made it easy to find fellowship. "She was very outgoing," Adams said. "She made friends very easily."

Adams said he also remembered Greenamyer's trips up to Logansport, which she was making up until the point she went into the nursing home. "She used to talk about how but 'for the grace of God.' we could be in there."

Greenamyer wrote articles for The Herald Republican for many years as well, usually on social events in Fremont called "This and That." Shutt said her mother used to close with a line that might well have summarized her life.

"... and a good time was had by all."

THE EVENING STAR

2009 Auburn, Indiana

August 2

Carol Warner

AUBURN — Carol Ann Warner, 70, of Auburn, died Friday July 31, 2009, at her residence.

Ms. Warner

She was born Dec. 19, 1938 in Rushville, the daughter of the late John and Jean Kirkpatrick.

She was a 1956 graduate of Rushville High School and a 1960 graduate of Ball State University where she received her degree in nursing. She was a registered nurse in the US Air Force, had worked at Parkview Hospital, and most recently Betz Nursing Home as director of nursing. She was a member of the American Legion Post No. 97 and Moose Lodge No. 566.

Survivors include her sons and daughters-in-law, Steve and Laura Warner of Westfield, and Jeff and Angie Warner of Auburn; grandchildren, Sean, Charlie, Ethan and Jonah; brothers and sisters-in-law, John and Beverly Kirkpatrick of Reno, Nev., and Bill and Becky Kirkpatrick of Brownsburg.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Evans and her parents.

Celebration of life service 11 a.m. Tuesday with calling one hour prior at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services 502 N. Main Street Auburn.

Visitation Monday 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial in Center Christian Church Cemetery, Rushville.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Hospice or Angel Corps, 704 W. 7th Street Auburn, IN 46706.

THE EVENING STAR

2009 Auburn, Indiana

August 3

Virginia Wilondek

MONTPELIER, Ohio — Virginia M. Wilondek, 90 of Montpelier, Ohio and formerly of Garrett, Ind., died Sunday, Aug. 2, 2009, at Bryan Community Hospital in Bryan, Ohio.

Mrs. Wilondek

She was born Oct. 31, 1918, in Garrett to Nathan and Mary (Koby) Kammerer. She married Thomas Wilondek on Oct. 17, 1940, and he died June 13, 1989.

Virginia was a homemaker and a bartender at the Garrett VFW until 1984. She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett and the VFW Auxiliary in Garrett.

Survivors include her son and daughter in-law, Nathan and Donna Wilondek of Defiance, Ohio; two grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; brother, Kenneth Kammerer; and sister, Patty Brooks.

A private graveside service will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009, at Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook, go to www.thomasfuneralhome.org

Maxton Ahdel

GARRETT — Maxton I. Ahdel, 1, of Garrett, passed away Saturday, Aug. 1, 2009, in Fredonia Township, Mich.

He was born June 22, 2008, in Fort Wayne.

He is survived by his parents, Leif and Kristy Ahdel of Garrett; grandparents, Greg and Cheryl Grimes of Marshall, Mich., and Eric and Annie Ahdel of Amersfoort, Netherlands; a brother, Aiden West of Garrett; a sister, Addison West of Garrett; great-grandparents, Lennart Ahdel of Chesterton, Bill and Kaye Warren of Auburn and Jerry and Doris Grimes of Fort Wayne; and a great-uncle, Joel Ahdel of Stockholm, Sweden.

Maxton Ahdel

He was preceded in death by his great-grandmother, Carol Ahdel.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, with calling one hour prior, at Auburn Church of the Nazarene 2301 N. Main St., Auburn.

Visitation will be Wednesday 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Memorials are to Auburn Church of the Nazarene Children's Ministry.

Lorraine Beber

GARRETT — Lorraine B. Beber, 68, of Garrett died Sunday, Aug. 2, 2009, at Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home.

She was born May 18, 1941, in Hartford City to LeRoy S. and Grace (Matlin) Sprowl.

She worked at Stanadyne in Garrett until its closing, and she was a waitress at Gottfried's in Garrett for many years.

Survivors include two sons, Randall and Sue Beber of Kennesaw, Ga., and Clay and Melinda Beber of Fort Wayne; three daughters, Serena and Larry Vanderpool of Garrett, Pam and Larry Ley of Fort Wayne and Shelley Thews and companion Dean Shipe of Ashley; a sister, Karen Dunn of Bradenton, Fla.; 14 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, LeRoy Sprowl.

There will be no calling.

A celebration of life will be held at the Garrett Eagles on Saturday from 1-5 p.m.

To send condolence or sign the online guestbook go to www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Thomas Funeral Home of Garrett is handling arrangements.

Shirely Lancaster

ANGOLA — Shirley Dee Lancaster, 73, of Angola died Monday, July 27, 2009, at Cameron Memorial Hospital in Angola.

Mrs. Lancaster had retired in 1997 after serving 30 years as an inspector for Ingersol-Rand.

She was a life member of the auxiliary of American Legion Post 423 in Orland, life member of the auxiliary of the George Anspaugh Veterans of Foreign Wars Post and a former member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

She was born Sept. 8, 1935, in Albion to George and Nita (Brimm) Butler. She married Jack Lancaster Sr. on Dec. 10, 1960. He survives in Angola.

Also surviving are two sons Jack Jr. and Sandy Lancaster of Angola and Joseph and Jenny Lancaster of Sturgis, Mich.; two daughters, Connie Rutter of Idaho and Melodie and Mikeal Cole of Coldwater, Mich.; a brother, William Butler of Washington; two sisters, Carol Steman of Auburn and Norma Andrews of California; 16 grandchildren; and 25 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a son, Virgil "Tom" Lancaster.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at South Scott Cemetery in Steuben County with the Rev. Melodie Cole officiating.

Weicht Funeral Home in Angola is in charge of arrangements.

Jason Coleman

AUBURN — Jason Michael Coleman, 35, of Auburn died Monday, Aug. 3, 2009, at his home.

He was born March 26, 1974, in Auburn.

He is survived by his children, Tyler, Kara and Marissa Coleman; his parents, Randy and Sharon Coleman of Auburn; a sister, Michelle Dapp of Garrett; and his grandparents, Gale and Joyce Wirts of Auburn and Laura Mae Coleman of Kendallville.

Family and friends are invited to join in a gathering of remembrance at 7 p.m. Thursday at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Calling will be from 4-7 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials to the family.

Billie Baker

GARRETT — Billie Sue Baker, 64, of Garrett, died Sunday Aug. 2, 2009, at her residence.

She was born Sept. 10, 1944, in Fort Wayne, to William and Elsie Harris.

She is survived by her husband, Harold Baker Jr. of Garrett; brothers and sisters-in-law, James and Sandy Harris of North Webster and Joe and Phyllis Harris of North Webster; her mother-in-law, Ann Baker of Decatur, Ill.; sisters-in-law, Nancy Wiley of Decatur, Ill., and Bonnie Baker of Rice Lake, Wis.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

There will be no services.

Pinnington-McComb Cremation & Funeral Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, is in charge of arrangements.

Dorothy Arnott

AUBURN — Dorothy I. "Dottie" Arnott, 82, of Auburn died Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009, at her daughter's home in rural Auburn.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Russ Howard officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday and one hour prior to the service on Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to Riley Hospital for Children Foundation, 30 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46204-4474 or the Grace Community Church of God, P.O. Box 752, Auburn, IN 46706.

Genevieve High

AUBURN — Genevieve L. High, 82, of Auburn died Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Services will be 11 a.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday and one hour prior to the funeral on Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Karen Hicks.

THE EVENING STAR

August 6 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Dorothy Arnott

AUBURN — Dorothy I. "Dottie" Arnott, 82, of Auburn died Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009, at her daughter's home in rural Auburn.

Mrs. Arnott was the owner and operator of hometown restaurants in St. Joe, Auburn, Ashley, Butler and Battle Creek, Mich. She also worked for Wal-Mart in Angola for five years, retiring in 2000.

Mrs. Arnott

She was born May 12, 1927, to Willard and Laura (Dager) Leonard. They both preceded her in death.

Surviving are four daughters and sons-in-law, Monica Rose and Jack Cook of Auburn, Martha and Brad Grimm of Auburn, and Janine and Barry Bender of Auburn and Pam and Steve Koch of Leo; three sons and daughters-in-law, David and Tanna Comment of Waterloo, Jon and Anita Comment of Butler and James and Bobbie Comment of St. Joe; two stepdaughters and their spouses, Sonja and Jerry Groshon of Fremont and Rita and Tom Emerick of Auburn; a sister, Iva Lou Maldaney of Kendallville; 22 grandchildren; two stepgrandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and two stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her husband, James Arnott, who died Oct. 29, 2004; a brother, Willard Leonard Jr.; a sister, Marjorie Sower; a grandson, Jason Comment; and a granddaughter, Tina Marie Cook.

Service swill be 2 p.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Russ Howard officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today and one hour prior to the funeral service on Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Riley Children's Foundation, 30 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46204-4474 or the Grace Community Church of God, P.O. Box 752, Auburn, IN 46706.

Hilda Loutzenhiser

GARRETT — Hilda E. Loutzenhiser, 82, of Garrett died at 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Loutzenhiser worked in packaging at Kraft Foods in Kendallville for 30 years, retiring in November 1989.

She was a member of the Church at Garrett, the Garrett Historical Society, and the Red Hat Club.

She was born April 4, 1927, in Clarkton, N.C., to Robert Byron and Lydia (Hester) Clark. They preceded her in death.

She married Dale L. Loutzenhiser Jr. on April 12, 1953, in Santa Ana, Calif., and he died April 2, 2003.

She is survived by a son Tim Loutzenhiser of Holland, Mich.; a daughter, Paula Conrad of Garrett; a brother, Richard Talbot Clark of Clarkton, N.C.; a sister: Mary E. Clark-Nye of Lisbon, N.C.; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband: Dale L. Loutzenhiser, parents; and two brothers, Arglus and Roland Clark.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with Pastor Tom Wilcoxson of the Church of Garrett officiating. Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett

Calling will be one hour prior to the funeral service.

Memorials are to the DeKalb Heart Association.

Send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Russell Womack Sr.

GARRETT — Russell E. Womack Sr., 69, of Garrett, died Wednesday, Aug 5, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Womack

Mr. Womack had retired in 1991 after 14 years of service with Auburn Concrete.

He was a member of the Garrett Eagles Lodge No. 2003.

He was born Nov. 22, 1939, in Lynchburg, Va., the son of James E. and Margaret O. Womack. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are three sons, Russell E. Womack Jr. of Garrett, Davy E. Womack of Garrett and James Womack of South Carolina; four daughters, Cindy Womack of Garrett, Melissa Womack of Garrett, Brenda Maugherman of Zephyrhills, Fla., and Donita Womack of Spring Hills, Fla.; and brothers, Walter Womack of Antwerp, Ohio, Kenneth Womack of Williamsburg, Va., and Robert Womack of Auburn.

He was also preceded in death by a son, Michael Cripe.

Funeral services will be at noon Saturday at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery.

Calling will be two hours prior to the service.

A reception will follow the service at New Life Ministries 130 N. Randolph St., Garrett.

Anna James

GARRETT — Anna "Ann" Mary James, 89, of Garrett died Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne with Father Andrew Nazareth officiating. Burial will follow in Catholic Cemetery at Fort Wayne.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Sunday at Thomas Funeral Home at Garrett with a rosary service at 7:30 p.m.

Memorials are to ASPCA of Allen County, DeKalb County Animal Shelter or the Garrett Pound in care of the Garrett Police Department.

Send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting: www.thomasfuneralhome.org

THE EVENING STAR

2009 Auburn, Indiana

August 9

'They needed each other'

BY JENNY KOBIELA-MONDOR
jennyk@kpcnews.net

By Jenny Kobiela-Mondor
jennyk@kpcnews.net

ASHLEY — When Harold Reinoehl did something well, he did it for a long time.

Reinoehl, of Fairfield Township, taught at Fairfield School for 40 years, and was married to his wife, Hilda, for 70 years.

He died July 24 at the age of 94.

Reinoehl started teaching at the one-room Hartman School in 1936 and, when the area's one-room schools closed in 1938, began teaching at the new Fairfield Center School and eventually was appointed head teacher. He stayed there until his retirement in 1978.

Reinhoehl taught both of his children, Max Reinoehl and Judy Ditmars, as well as his niece, Cathy Wells, and oldest grandson.

"He liked to pick on me, but otherwise he was pretty much just down to business," Wells said. "When he said to do it, you knew you'd better do it."

"He was what I called a no-nonsense teacher," Ditmars said.

"You didn't talk to the girl next to you, because I had to stand in the corner," Max Reinoehl said.

"But when it was time for recess, he'd go out and play with you," Ditmars said.

Wells said sometimes recess would even go a little long in the spring, because Harold Reinoehl was enjoying playing with the children — even some of them that he would punish in his classroom.

"It wasn't like he held it against you or anything," she said.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Harold and Hilda Reinoehl pose together. Harold Reinoehl, a longtime teacher at Fairfield School, died July 24. Hilda, his wife of 70 years, died in January.

Harold Reinoehl also coached baseball and basketball, and in 1960 his basketball team won an invitational by beating Ashley in the final game.

"That was just the peak," Ditmars said.

Reinoehl's legacy still lives on at the community's new Country Meadow Elementary School, in a way, Wells said. Principal Bruce Hamilton, who worked with Reinoehl during his last year, still uses the two-handed "Harold Reinoehl wave" to tell the bus drivers they can leave at the end of the day.

Reinoehl also was a farmer and loved to work in his fields and bale hay. His old baler, which Max Reinoehl still uses, baled over 90,000 bales from 1957 to 1991.

"It was just his place of serenity," Ditmars said. The farm had cows, sheep, pigs and chickens. Harold Reinoehl would get up in the mornings and start the chores, and Hilda Reinoehl would finish them.

"Dad had a gem of a sidekick," Ditmars said. "They needed each other."

Hilda Reinoehl died Jan. 28 at the age of 88.

The couple met when Harold Reinoehl wrote a letter to his sister, Olga, asking to her to fix him up with her best friend, Hilda Smith.

The couple wed Aug. 21, 1938, and were married for 70 years and five months before Hilda Reinoehl's death.

"They were both happy people," Ditmars said. "We had a good upbringing."

Hilda Reinoehl loved to cook, and often fixed treats for Harold Reinoehl's class at school. Nobody was allowed to leave the house unless they ate something, their daughter-in-law, Sharon Reinoehl said.

The couple were a great team and taught their family to love God, be thankful, respect others and be honest and kind, Ditmars said.

"They were just a cute little couple. It was something that they could be together as long as they were," she added. "We were blessed to see our parents celebrate 70 years together. That's such a rare occasion. Our family foundation has really been shaken in 2009, but we feel we were given a beautiful gift to have them as long as we did."

Marilyn Smith

GARRETT — Marilyn E. Smith, age 70, of Garrett, died at 6:08 p.m. Friday, August 7, 2009 at Select Care Specialty Hospital — Fort Wayne, IN.

She was born May 14, 1939 in Fort Wayne to Clarence "Bob" and LaVon (Baum) Rodey and they preceded her in death. Marilyn married Kenneth F. Smith on August 7, 1965 in Fort Wayne, IN and he survives. She was the office manager at Hamilton Family Medical Center in Hamilton, IN for the past 6 years.

Mrs. Smith

She was a graduate of Stephens College in Columbia, MO and Indiana University. She had a Masters Degree in Education. She taught 2nd Grade at Slocum Elementary School. She was president of the Junior Division of the Fort Wayne Women's Club and was the current president of the Phi Mu Fraternity — Fort Wayne Chapter. She owned The Wedding Place in Fort Wayne for 17 years and presented the Classic City Charity Horse Show in Auburn, IN for 10 years. Marilyn owned and raised American Saddlebreds and was a member of the American Saddlebred Association. She was a member of the United Methodist Church of the Covenant — Fort Wayne.

Marilyn is survived by her husband: Kenneth F. Smith of Garrett, IN and a daughter, Teresa L. Smith M.D. of Angola, IN. She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Robert Rodey.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. — 1 p.m. Tuesday, August 11, 2009 at Thomas Funeral Home — Garrett, IN with the funeral service to follow at 1 p.m. Officiating will be Rev. Thomas Sagendorf.

A private burial will take place in Lindenwood Cemetery — Fort Wayne. Memorials are to the Faith Community Health Clinic, P.O. Box 972, Angola, IN 46703.

You may send a condolence or sign the online regiser book by visiting thomasfuneralhome.org.

Jennie Adams

GARRETT — Jennie I. Adams, 87, of Garrett, died at 6:52 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, 2009, at her residence.

There will be a memorial graveside service at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2009 at Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Barbara Crow

BUTLER — Barbara J. Crow, 62, died Friday, Aug. 7, 2009. There will be private calling and burial. Arrangements by Johnson Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Hudson.

Kathy D. Miller

Butler — Kathy D. Miller, 58, of Butler died Friday, Aug. 7, 2009 at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Miller was dietary cook for the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler for 18 years.

She attended the Auburn Church of the Nazarene in Auburn.

She was born Oct. 28, 1950, in Ashland, Kentucky to Woodrow and Ruth Joanna (Croy) Mayse. They both preceded her in death.

She is survived by two sons and a daughter-in-law, Danny L. Miller Jr. of Butler, and Chris S. and Leah Miller of Grabill; four brothers and sisters-in-law, Donald & Sharon Mayse of California, Michael and Judy Mayse of Auburn, David and Karen Mayse of South Point, Ohio, and Steve and Susan Mayse of Waterloo; and two grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Richard Mayse and Gary Mayse.

Services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Dan White officiating. Burial will be in the Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Arthritis Foundation, P.O. Box 7669, Atlanta, GA, 30357-0669

Evelyn Black

AVILLA —Evelyn F. (Leffel) Black, 91, of Avilla died Sunday, Aug. 9, 2009, at 6 a.m. in the home of her daughter near Albion.

Mrs. Black has been an area resident for 20 years. She graduated as valedictorian of her senior class in Deedsville. She had worked at Wirk Garment in Ligonier and Auburn Rubber Co., and retired from Indiana Wire and Die.

She was born June 14, 1918, in Miami County, Ind., to Albert and Elizabeth (Hoover) Leffel. She was married to Guy Black.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Janice and Wayne Zumbrun of Albion; a son, John Albert Black of Avilla; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and four sisters, Ethel Lang of Redding, Calif., Wilma Sanders of Metropolis, Ill., Hazel Ridyard of Oceanside, Calif., and Miriam Shultz of South Milford.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Guy Black in May, 1999; a son, Dennis Black, in 1965; two sisters, Mary Richardson and May DeWald; and a brother, Walter Leffel.

Funeral services will be Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2009, at 1 p.m. at Calvary Methodist Church in Avilla, with The Rev. Dr. Leonard King officiating. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery in DeKalb County.

Preferred memorials are to Calvary Methodist Church, 125 Cherry St., Avilla, IN, 46710.

Calling will be Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2009, from 4-8 p.m. in Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 South State St., Kendallville, and one hour prior to services at the church on Wednesday.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Donna J. Richmond

AUBURN — Donna J. Richmond, 84, of Auburn died Thursday, Aug. 7, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Richmond was a homemaker. She attended Soul's Harbor Assembly of God in rural Auburn.

She was born Sept. 8, 1924, in Waterloo to Ora and Bessie (Smith) Bainbridge. They both preceded her in death.

She married Earl Richmond on Nov. 27, 1942, in Albion. He survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a son and his domestic partner, Ted Richmond and Richard DeCamp of Rising Sun; two daughters and sons-in-law, Coleen and Alan Adams of Ossian, and Chris and Nick Menges of Auburn; and four grandchildren and spouses, Shay and Kocoa Menges of Nashville, Tenn., Barry and Andrea Menges of Auburn, Jess Menges of Auburn, and Chet Willard of Ft. Wayne.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Bob Bainbridge.

There will be no calling or services. Burial will take place in the Waterloo Cemetery.

Feller Funeral Home of Waterloo is handling arrangements.

Karl Kearns Sr.

LaOTTO — Karl K. Kearns Sr., 85, of rural LaOtto, died at 4:45 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, 2009, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

He was born Feb. 14, 1924, in DeKalb County, Ind., to Joseph L. and Mabel (Kahlo) Kearns. His parents preceded him in death.

Mr. Kearns

He married Phyllis Traxler on Sept. 30, 1950, in Garrett, and she survives in LaOtto.

Mr. Kearns worked as a wire drawer at General Electric in Fort Wayne for 30 years, retiring in 1986.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Garrett.

Mr. Kearns is survived by his wife, Phyllis Kearns of rural LaOtto; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Ronald Kearns of Garrett and Karl K. Jr. and Dawn Kearns of LaOtto; two daughters and sons-in-law, Karen and Booth Elliott of LaOtto, and Diane and William Robb of Fort Wayne; 11 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Robert Kearns and Joseph Kearns.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2009, at Thomas Funeral Home, and from 10-11 a.m. Wednesday at the First Baptist Church in Garrett.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2009, at the First Baptist Church in Garrett with the Rev. David Mix officiating.

Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of rural Garrett.

Memorials are to the First Baptist Church in Garrett.

You may send a condolence or sign the online register book by visiting thomasfuneralhome.org

THE EVENING STAR

2009 Auburn, Indiana

August 10

Hazel King

AUBURN — Hazel W. King, 69, of Auburn died Saturday, Aug. 8, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. King

Our mother was one of a kind! She always treated her kids equally with love and respect. She was a secret keeper and a mind reader.

She loved family gatherings, and spending time with her grandchildren. She enjoyed visiting friends at the American Legion, VFW, and Eagles, where she was a member.

She was survived by her loving and devoted husband of 31 years, Lowell King a.k.a. "Poopsi". As a wife, she was second to none, spending day and night with her husband Lowell. They enjoyed vacationing in their winter destination of Florida.

She is also survived by her children Dan and "Deb" Harper of Albion, Johnny Harper of Laotto, Michael Harper, and Kelly and "Butch" Poynter of Corunna, Wanetta and "Scott" Patell of Grabill, Sherry Johnson of Churubusco, and Kris and "Chuck" Taylor of Garrett. She is also survived by her stepchildren Michael and "Patsy" King, and David King. She is a loving grandmother of Brandon, Dustin, Michael, Amy, Michele, Misty, Christopher, Derek, Amber, Danielle, Toni, Taya, John-David, Nathan, Jennifer, Josh, Sarah, Charlie, Franky, and Mikayla, and great-grandchildren Steel, Savannah, Adrianah, and Emma. She is also survived by her brother Cody and "Suzy" Schneider, and sister Caroline and "Thomas" Carteaux.

She will be joining her brother, Christian Schneider, and her grandsons, Daniel Ray Harper Jr., and Markus Daniel Johnson, in heaven. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends, and most of all she was our best friend.

Showing will be held at Feller and Clark Funeral home in Auburn on Wednesday, Aug. 12, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. and funeral services will be held at the Woodlawn Cemetery on Saturday, Aug 15 at 11 a.m.

Memorials should be sent in her memory to the American Diabetes Association.

THE EVENING STAR

August 11 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Dr. William Hamilton

ST. JOE — Dr. William H. Hamilton, 89, of St. Joe and formerly of West Lafayette died Sunday, August 9, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was born Sept. 10, 1919, in Lucas County, Iowa, to John and Maude (Nickalous) Hamilton. His parents have both passed away.

Dr. Hamilton was a professor at Purdue University in West Lafayette, retiring in 1989.

He received his Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1967.

Dr. Hamilton served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WWII. He was a member of the National FFA, West Lafayette Kiwanis Club and the First United Methodist Church of West Lafayette.

He married Barbara L. Pond on December 10, 1945, in Rochester, New York, and she survives in St. Joe.

He is also survived by three daughters and two sons-in-law, Marilyn Hamilton of St. Joe, Phyllis and Jim Heath of West Lafayette, and Dale and Pierre Verger of Ashland, Oregon; a daughter-in-aw, Cathrine Hamilton of St. Joe; two grandsons, Paul Hamilton of St. Joe and Ted Hamilton of Loves Park, Ill.; two great-grandchildren, Kyle and Tyler Hamilton; two sisters, Francis Peterson and May Hamilton, both of St. Paul, Minn.; and two brothers and two sisters-in-law, Jim Hamilton of Council Bluff, Iowa, George and Marge Hamilton of Phoenix, Ariz., and Esther Howard of North Canton, Ohio.

He was also preceded in death by a son, Roger Hamilton; a sister, Mary Pendergast; and four brothers, John, Charlie, Stan and Les Hamilton.

Services are pending.

Memorials can be directed to DeKalb County Cancer Society.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, is in charge of arrangements.

Robert Walt

ROME CITY — Robert T. "Bob" Walt, age 78, died unexpectedly Monday, August 10, 2009, at his home in Rome City.

Mr. Walt

Bob was born in Avilla on May 14, 1931, and was the son of Michael and Marquerite nee Miller Walt, both deceased. He attended St. Mary's Catholic School through the eighth grade, then graduated from Avilla High School in 1950.

After graduating from high school, he began his career at General Electric in Fort Wayne. He was employed there from 1950 until his retirement in 1987. At his retirement he was the supervisor of the Fire and Security Department. He moved to Rome City in 1979 from Fort Wayne.

In 1951 he joined the United States Marine Corp., serving three years with one during the Korean War.

Bob married the love of his life, Pat, while in the Marines on June 7, 1952, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett. She died in August of 2002, after 50 years of marriage.

Bob joined the Knights of Columbus in 1988 at Father August Young Council 1790 in Garrett, Ind. He served as the Grand Knight for four years and under his leadership the council received two Star Council Awards. He joined Anthony Wayne Assembly No. 239 in September of 1993. In 1999, Bob was very instrumental in forming Mother Teresa Assembly No. 2581 which serves four councils with those being his home council 1790 in Garrett, 7839 in Kendallville, 9186 in Auburn, and 14214 in Avilla. Bob served several years as Commander of the Mother Teresa Assembly's color guard, and was presently serving as the Faithful Comptroller.

In 2006, he was appointed to the Gibault Inc. Board of Trustees and remained in that position as a dedicated believer in the Gibault Mission. Most recently he was honored as Fourth Degree Exemplification on February 21 and 22 of this year.

He was a very active member of the American Legion Post 240 in Avilla, where he was the Past Commander, and a member of the First Marine Division Association. He was honored with a Purple Heart and many other honors throughout his life.

Surviving are three daughters and sons-in-law, Patrice and Neil Whitesell of Ligonier, Pamela and Theotis Stalling of Fort Wayne and Paula and Randy Belice of Riverside, Illinois; seven grandchildren, Zachary (Nicole) Whitesell, Katie, Anny and Cody Whitesell, and Tierra, Janel and Chenea Williams; six great-grandchildren, Payton, Ajada, Anara, Acacia, Kimora and Jakari; three brothers, Michael Walt of Westville, Ind., James Walt of Craig, Colorado and Thomas Walt of Anaconda, Montana; and a sister-in-law, Helen Hall of Atlanta, Ga.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and two sisters, Kathleen Redmond, and Patricia Bolinger.

Mass of Christian Burial will be Friday, August 14, 2009, at 10 a.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Albion.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at Brazzell Funeral Home, Avilla Chapel. A rosary service will be recited at 7:30 p.m.

Burial will be at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Avilla. Military graveside services will be conducted by American Legion Post 240.

Memorials in memory of Bob may be made to the Gibault Inc., 6301 South U.S. Highway 41, P.O. Box 2316, Terre Haute, IN 47802-0316.

Noel Muhn

Noel A. Muhn, 86, of Erwin, passed away on Tuesday, August 4, 2009, at Johnson City Medical Center.

Mr. Muhn was a native of Auburn, Ind. He was the son of the late Frank Lung and Myrtle Mowry.

Noel served in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II and was the recipient of an Air Metal and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

He was plant manager for Morrill Motors for more than 30 years and played an instrumental role in opening the Shallow Ford plant.

Mr. Muhn attended Centenary United Methodist Church in Erwin, Tenn.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by wife, Margaret Hyde Muhn in 1998; one brother, Lester Lung; and one sister, Pauline Mitchell.

Mr. Muhn leaves behind daughters, Debra L. McKee and husband Joe of Piney Flats and Sydney Blair and husband Cal Garcia of Sarasota, Fla.; sons: Noel A. Muhn Jr. and wife Bert of Erwin, David L. Blair and wife Christine of Marquette, Mich., and D. Kevin Blair and wife Alida of Rocklin, Calif.; grandchildren, Samantha Hughes and husband Jamie of Jonesborough, Justin Muhn and wife Jessica of Unicoi, Daniel Muhn and wife Kendall of Fort Bragg, N.C., Brittney Tapp and husband Derek of Unicoi, Alicia, Michael, and Amanda Blair of Rocklin, Calif., Dr. Pam Roberts of Port St. Lucie, Fla., Patti Burgett and husband Joe of Orlando, Fla., Freddie Roberts of Florida and Scott Blair of Illinois; two great-grandchildren, Kylee Muhn and Noelle Hughes; and a niece, Linda Demske and husband Fred of Kendallville, Ind.

The funeral service for Mr. Muhn were held Aug. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of Valley Funeral Home, 1085 N. Main Ave, Erwin. Reverend Robert Layell and Jamie Hughes officiated. Music was provided by Jamie Hughes.

Military graveside services were held at 11 a.m. Aug. 8 in Evergreen Cemetery. The Unicoi County High School Jr. R.O.T.C. provided honors. Active pallbearers were members of the Unicoi County High School Jr. R.O.T.C.

The family wishes memorial contributions be made to Centenary United Methodist Church, 203 N. Elm Ave., Erwin, TN 37650 or to the American Lung Association, 1 Vintage Way, Suite B-130, Nashville, TN 37228. Condolences and memories may be shared with the family and viewed by visiting www.valleyfuneralhome.net.

Robert Walt

ROME CITY — Robert T. "Bob" Walt, age 78, died unexpectedly Monday, August 10, 2009, at his home in Rome City.

Mr. Walt

Bob was born in Avilla on May 14, 1931, and was the son of Michael and Marquerite nee Miller Walt, both deceased. He attended St. Mary's Catholic School through the eighth grade, then graduated from Avilla High School in 1950.

After graduating from high school, he began his career at General Electric in Fort Wayne. He was employed there from 1950 until his retirement in 1987. At his retirement he was the supervisor of the Fire and Security Department. He moved to Rome City in 1979 from Fort Wayne.

In 1951 he joined the United States Marine Corp., serving three years with one during the Korean War.

Bob married the love of his life, Pat, while in the Marines on June 7, 1952, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett. She died in August of 2002, after 50 years of marriage.

Bob joined the Knights of Columbus in 1988 at Father August Young Council 1790 in Garrett, Ind. He served as the Grand Knight for four years and under his leadership the council received two Star Council Awards. He joined Anthony Wayne Assembly No. 239 in September of 1993. In 1999, Bob was very instrumental in forming Mother Teresa Assembly No. 2581 which serves four councils with those being his home council 1790 in Garrett, 7839 in Kendallville, 9186 in Auburn, and 14214 in Avilla. Bob served several years as Commander of the Mother Teresa Assembly's color guard, and was presently serving as the Faithful Comptroller.

In 2006, he was appointed to the Gibault Inc. Board of Trustees and remained in that position as a dedicated believer in the Gibault Mission. Most recently he was honored as Fourth Degree Exemplification on February 21 and 22 of this year.

He was a very active member of the American Legion Post 240 in Avilla, where he was the Past Commander, and a member of the First Marine Division Association. He was honored with a Purple Heart and many other honors throughout his life.

Surviving are three daughters and sons-in-law, Patrice and Neil Whitesell of Ligonier, Pamela and Theotis Stalling of Fort Wayne and Paula and Randy Belice of Riverside, Illinois; seven grandchildren, Zachary (Nicole) Whitesell, Katie, Anny and Cody Whitesell, and Tierra, Janel and Chenea Williams; six great-grandchildren, Payton, Ajada, Anara, Acacia, Kimora and Jakari; three brothers, Michael Walt of Westville, Ind., James Walt of Craig, Colorado and Thomas Walt of Anaconda, Montana; and a sister-in-law, Helen Hall of Atlanta, Ga.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and two sisters, Kathleen Redmond, and Patricia Bolinger.

Mass of Christian Burial will be Friday, August 14, 2009, at 11 a.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Albion.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today at Brazzell Funeral Home, Avilla Chapel. A rosary service will be recited at 7:30 p.m.

Burial will be at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Avilla. Military graveside services will be conducted by American Legion Post 240.

Memorials in memory of Bob may be made to the Gibault Inc., 6301 South U.S. Highway 41, P.O. Box 2316, Terre Haute, IN 47802-0316.

Romaine Rose

GARRETT — Romaine Rose, 94, of Garrett and formerly of Fort Wayne, died Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2009, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Mrs. Rose was a member of Anthony Wayne Church of God.

She was born May 6, 1915, in Van Wert, Ohio.

Surviving are three daughters, Marian (Bill) Brady of Fremont, Merrilly Sisk of Coldwater, Mich., and Paula Bunt of Fort Wayne; a son, Shawn (Beth) Rose of Auburn; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Melvin A. "Bud" Rose, and two sons, Buck and Bud Rose.

There are no services.

Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services in Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR

2009 Auburn, Indiana

August 13

Dr. William Hamilton

ST. JOE — Funeral services for Dr. William H. Hamilton of St. Joe will be at 2 p.m. today in the chapel of Auburn First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Ted Jansen officiating.

Dr. Hamilton, 89, died Sunday, August 9, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was born Sept. 10, 1919, in Lucas County, Iowa, to John and Maude (Nickalous) Hamilton. His parents have both passed away.

Dr. Hamilton was a professor at Purdue University in West Lafayette, retiring in 1989.

He received his Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1967.

Dr. Hamilton served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WWII. He was a member of the National FFA, West Lafayette Kiwanis Club and the First United Methodist Church of West Lafayette.

He married Barbara L. Pond on December 10, 1945, in Rochester, New York, and she survives in St. Joe.

He is also survived by three daughters and two sons-in-law, Marilyn Hamilton of St. Joe, Phyllis and Jim Heath of West Lafayette, and Dale and Pierre Verger of Ashland, Oregon; a daughter-in-law, Cathrine Hamilton of St. Joe; two grandsons, Paul and Leah Hamilton of St. Joe and Ted and Lynn Hamilton of Loves Park, Ill.; two great-grandchildren, Kyle and Tyler Hamilton; two sisters, Francis Peterson and May Hamilton, both of St. Paul, Minn.; and two brothers and two sisters-in-law, Jim Hamilton of Council Bluff, Iowa, George and Marge Hamilton of Phoenix, Ariz., and Esther Howard of North Canton, Ohio.

He was also preceded in death by a son, Roger Hamilton; a sister, Mary Pendergast; and four brothers, John, Charlie, Stan and Les Hamilton.

Memorials can be directed to DeKalb County Cancer Society.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, is in charge of arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR

August 14 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Helen Gonser

HUDSON — Helen E. Gonser, 89, of Hudson died Sunday, Aug. 9, 2009, at her home.

Mrs. Gonser retired from teaching in 1982. She had taught at Auburn High School and for the East Noble School System.

She was a member of the Ashley United Methodist Church, the Ladies Guild and the Study Club.

She was born Jan. 24, 1920, in Steuben County to George and Margaret (Emerson) Butler. She married Robert D. Gonser on June 29, 1952, in Salem Center. He died July 3, 1997.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Cliff and Sylvia Gonser of Hudson; two daughters and sons-in-law, Lizabeth and Robert Petry of East Moline, Ill., and Lilli and Kenny Giessler of Hudson; two sisters, Rose Clark of Hudson and Marie Brouse of Sturgis, Mich.; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13, at Johnson Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Hudson with the Rev. Donald M. Wadkins officiating.

Memorials are to the Parkinson Association.

Condolences may be sent online to Johnson@bnin.net

THE EVENING STAR

August 15 2009 Auburn, Indiana

David Church

AUBURN — David Wayne Church, 41, of Auburn died Thursday, Aug. 13, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Among his survivors are Robin Salisbury of Waterloo and Mark Salisbury of Bunker Hill, Ind.

He was preceded in death by Bliss Alfred Church.

There will be no services or calling.

Cremation has taken place.

A private family service will be held at a later date.

THE EVENING STAR

2009 Auburn, Indiana

August 16

Meyers valued his community

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Kenneth Meyers was a wonderful salesman for Steuben County.

Meyers, who helped to found the Steuben County Tourism Bureau and managed the Potowatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park, died Aug. 5 at age 93.

Meyer's son, Phil, said his father helped to instill in him a sense of caring about where he lived.

"He really did try to instill a sense of family and a sense of community," Meyers said. "At the dinner table at home, we wouldn't be talking sports, we'd talk about local politics and community events."

Phil said that sense of community was something he'd been taught by his own father, who moved the family into the Angola area in 1926. His father then became involved in local politics in a big way, serving as both a county council member and commissioner.

"I think that's where he (Kenneth) got it from," Phil said.

After serving in World War II, Meyers returned to the area, where he held a number of sales positions. Among them was an eight-year stint as the manager of Potawatomi Inn in the 1950s and '60s. Phil said these types of positions fit his father naturally.

"He enjoyed it because he was a very people-oriented person," Phil said.

Meyers helped to modernize the inn during his time there.

"He got televisions for a lot of the rooms; very few had them at the time he took over," Phil said. "Some of the rooms didn't even have telephones, so it was quite a modernization they went through there."

While Meyers spent a great deal of time at work and with various community organizations, including the Angola Masonic Lodge, Angola Lions Club and American Legion. Phil said his father always took the time he needed to at home.

"He had his priorities right," Phil said. "I wish more children could have a father like mine — he was always there when I needed him, he came up when I stumbled, he [illegible] when I required it and he congratulated me when I deserved it."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Kenneth Meyers was an active player in many aspects of Steuben County, from tourism to politics to community organizations. Here he is pictured, left, with other state Republican county chairs at a state meeting in the 1950s. Meyers served as the chair of the Steuben County Republican Party for 16 years.

Meyers and his wife, Alice, were married 62 years when she died in 2003.

"For him, those six years without her were longer than the 62 with her," Phil said.

The two never went to bed angry, he said.

"She was a very gentle woman, a fair woman. He was the same way. He could have an edge, but there was a heart of gold inside."

Some of his wife's patience, developed from her time as a teacher, was necessary when Meyers got into one of his pastimes, making different varieties of wine in the kitchen.

"It was something he picked up to pass the time while I was in Vietnam," Phil said. "That and woodworking. But he always had a new batch or concoction going in the kitchen. Sometimes it would go a little haywire, and he'd have to clean things up."

While the winemaking eventually slowed down, Phil said his father kept up the woodworking well into his 80s, along with his daily get-togethers to talk about local politics with friends.

"It started back in the early-'70s with five gentlemen, my father and some of the owners of businesses downtown. They'd get together every day at 8:30 a.m. They've probably been everywhere in Angola," Phil said. "Sometimes there'd be as many as 12. They'd always play a game to see who paid, and they'd write it down in a book. There have to have been about 125 of those books that have been used."

Meyers was instrumental in the founding of the Steuben County Tourism board, and was a longtime member of its board of directors. Director June Julien said Meyers was a good friend and helped set a lot of positive things in motion.

"He was a wonderful mentor and a very progressive thinker," Julien said. "He was always helping us. He was just such a nice man. He had unbelievable dedication to making the community a better place. I'm really honored to have known him and been able to work with him."

Arie VanStraten

AUBURN — Arie VanStraten, 81, died Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009, at his home in Auburn.

Mr. VanStraten was born Dec. 4, 1927, in Amersfoort, Holland, to Jan and Aartje (Batavier) VanStraten.

Mr. VanStraten

He graduated from high school in 1943 in Holland and served in the Dutch Army from 1948 to 1952. He returned to Holland in 1955 and married Catharina Dekker on October 5, 1956. She died July 21, 2008.

They came to the United States in March 1957, and he began working with a local cabinet maker and then with Grabill Cabinet Company. In 1963 he and his wife, Tiny, opened their own cabinet company but always kept a working relationship with Grabill Cabinet Company as a kitchen designer until his diagnosis with pancreatic cancer in December, 2007. He and Tiny also opened a Montgomery Ward Catalog Agency and then, after retirement, they moved to Wesley Park Apartment and Tiny became the manager of the apartment building, and Arie was her "maintenance man and chief trouble maker" for 16 years.

He was a member of Auburn First United Methodist Church. He was a strong supporter of the American Red Cross, where he donated 16 whole gallons of blood and participated as a Pheresis donor 109 times over his lifetime. Upon learning of his diagnosis of cancer, the only tears he shed were when he was told he could no longer donate blood.

He was a former member and past president of the Auburn Jaycees. As president of the Jaycees he, along with five other community members, participated in the fundraising and development of the Auburn Community Pool. He was honored with a lifetime USA Senatorship in the Jaycees.

He was a member of the Auburn Lions Club and an active member of the American Cancer Society, the Good Samaritan Clothing Bank and the Homeless Shelter. He was the founder and president of the Hoosier Chorale with whom he traveled through Western Europe. He also organized 11 tours for European choirs here in the United States.

He is survived by four children, sons John VanStraten of Auburn and Eric VanStraten of Indianapolis and daughters Helen (Jim) Caldwell of Morgantown and JoAnn (Grant) DeVenney of Bentonville, Ark.; seven grandchildren, Joshua Caldwell, Shelby Sipe, Thomas Caldwell, Adam DeVenney, Ashley DeVenney, Diedre VanStraten and Anneke VanStraten; two sisters, Johanna Oosterbaan and Everdina Schouten; and nieces, nephews and other extended family in the Netherlands.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at the Auburn First United Methodist Church. Rev. Ted Jansen and Rev. Dale Williams will officiate. Burial will be in the Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

The family will receive friends from 10 to 11 a.m. Thursday at the church, one hour prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorials be directed to the American Red Cross or the church.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, is assisting the family with arrangements.

David Church

WATERLOO — David Wayne Church, 41, of Waterloo died Thursday, Aug. 13, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Surviving are his mother, Marilyn (Church) Johnston of Waterloo, and two brothers Robin Salisbury of Waterloo and Mark Salisbury of Bunker Hill, Ind.

He was preceded in death by his father, Bliss Alfred Church.

There will be no services or calling. Cremation has taken place.

A private family memorial service will be held at a later date.

THE EVENING STAR

August 18 2009 Auburn, Indiana

P. Douglas Colbart

HUNTINGTON — P. Douglas Colbart, 70, of Huntington, died Saturday, Aug. 15, 2009, at 7:59 p.m. at his home.

Mr. Colbart was born May 5, 1939, in Angola to Donald and Frances (Clark) Colbart.

Mr. Colbart

He graduated from Waterloo High School in 1957.

He married Linda S. Pinkerton on Oct. 18, 1959, in Waterloo.

He worked for Noll Printing for 32 years and retired from Mignone Communications of Huntington in 2006 after 11 years as a printer.

Survivors include his wife of 49 years, Linda S. Colbart; his stepmother, Wilma Colbart of Auburn; three sons and daughters-in-law, David and Deniece Colbart of Huntington, Dennis and Ena Colbart of Columbia City, and Darrin and Connie Colbart of Fort Wayne; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Tim and Linda Colbart of Auburn and Byron and Janice Farrell of Godfrey, Ill.; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Janet and Jim Hamilton of Auburn, and Suzan and Al Armstrong of Fort Wayne; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a nephew.

Services will be Thursday at 10 a.m at Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 W. Park Drive, Huntington, with Russell Buzzard officiating. Burial will be in the Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Wednesday from 3 to 7 p.m. and Thursday from 9 to 10 a.m. at Bailey-Love Mortuary.

Memorials are to the Huntington County Cancer Society, in care of Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 W. Park Drive, Huntington, IN 46750.

Condolences may be left at www.baileylove.com.

THE EVENING STAR

August 19 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Irvin Carpenter

HUDSON — Irvin W. "Irv" Carpenter, 80, formerly of Auburn, died Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2009, in his home at the Lake-of-the-Woods, near Hudson.

Mr. Carpenter

Mr. Carpenter worked for Dana Corporation for 39 years, retiring Dec. 1, 1989.

He was a private first class in the U.S. Army, serving in the Korean Conflict.

He was born April 7, 1929, in Roanoke, to Fred and Lula (Vanmeter) Carpenter. They both preceded him in death.

He married Pauline Fields on Aug. 14, 1948, and she died Nov. 11, 2001. He then married Maxine Weber on April 24, 2004, and she survives.

Also surviving are one son and daughter-in-law, Michael Wayne and Susan Carpenter of Garrett; one daughter and son-in-law, Katherine Jean and David Platner of Shelby Township, Mich.; four grandchildren, Jeffrey Platner, Amanda Tarlton, Jaclyn Carpenter and Craig Carpenter; and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Fred Carpenter, Dewey Carpenter and Charles Bragg; two half-brothers, James Slagel and Carl Slagel; and two sisters, Ruth Bradfield and Rosa Carpenter.

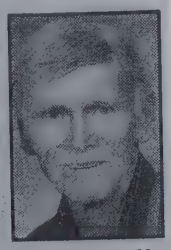
Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Kenny Queener officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn, with military graveside services being conducted by the Avilla American Legion.

Calling will be Thursday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the ALS Foundation.

Richard Bennett

AVILLA — Richard "Dick" Bennett, 68, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2009 at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne.



Mr. Bennett

Born in Fort Wayne, Richard worked for Fort Wayne Moving & Storage & Terex Advance Mixer, retiring in 2004.

Dick enjoyed his grandchildren, '62 truck, NASCAR and fishing.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran and was a member of the Teamsters Local #414.

Surviving are his wife, Rita Bennett of Avilla; son, Charles (Krystal) Bennett of Waterloo; daughter, Stephanie (Armando) Roque of Kendallville; and grandchildren, Nickolas, Noah, Nando, Edson and Kadyn.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Queentine Bennett, sisters, Janet Fultner and Loretta Byerley and grandson, Rigo Garcia.

Funeral ceremony is 11 a.m. Saturday at D.O. McComb and Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Rd., Fort Wayne with the Rev. Sue Socha officiating. Burial will be in Highland Park Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

Calling will be from 4 to 8 pm Friday at the funeral home and one hour prior to services Saturday.

Memorials may be made to the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, LaOtto, or Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana.

To sign the online guest book, go to mccombandsons.com.

Marcia Fuleki

ST. JOE — Marcia A. Fuleki, 59, of St. Joe, died Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2009, in her residence. She had been in failing health since January.

Mrs. Fuleki

Mrs. Fuleki had worked at the Oasis Tavern in St. Joe.

She collected pottery and crocheted and was a graduate of East Noble High School.

She was born Aug. 1, 1950, in Garrett, to Harry and Joann (Blech) Rissner.

On Dec. 15, 1972, she married Gary W. Fuleki. He survives in St. Joe.

Also surviving are a son, Christopher Fuleki of Wawaka; three daughters, Dawn Bowman of Kendallville, Carrie Fuleki of Garrett and Gail Smith of Fort Wayne; five grandchildren; and two brothers and a sister-in-law, Kenny and Diane Rissner of Kendallville and George Rissner of Avilla.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, John Rissner.

Services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville, with Rev. Brent Wedding officiating. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens in Fort Wayne.

Calling will be Friday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society or the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Condolences may be left at youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR

August 21 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Rev. Rodney Hall

WATERLOO — The Rev. Rodney R. Hall, 76, died Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo.

Calling will be today from 2 to 4 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to his church, Agape Assembly of God Church, Waterloo.

Estilene Jinnings

BALL LAKE — Estilene C. Jinnings, 91, formerly of Ball Lake, Hamilton, died Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

Mrs. Jinnings

Mrs. Jinnings was born March 11, 1918, in Edon, Ohio, to Grover and Carrie (Lump) Shaull.

She married Leroy Jinnings on May 25, 1935, in Crown Point.

She and her husband raised registered Holstein cattle on their Troy Township farm, before retiring to Ball Lake.

She was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Butler.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Carolyn and Robert Stayer of Auburn and Marilyn and Jon David Snyder of Butler; two sons and daughters-in-law, John and Tara Jinnings of Shreveport, La., and Thomas and Kay Jinnings of Hamilton; 11 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, LeRoy, on Sept. 8, 2001, and one son, Edward Arthur Jinnings.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at Oberlin-Turnbull Funeral Home & Crematory, 3985 East Church Street, Hamilton, with Pastor John Stuck officiating.

Burial will be in Edon Cemetery, Edon, Ohio.

Calling will be Sunday from 3 to 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Rev. Rodney Hall

WATERLOO — The Rev. Rodney R. Hall, 75, of Waterloo, died Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Hall worked for the DeKalb Central School System where he taught English and literature. He was also the pastor of the Agape Assembly of God in Waterloo.

He was born Dec. 2, 1933, in Detroit, Mich., to Webster Winstead and Nellie Pearl (Johnson) Hall. They preceded him in death.

He married Della "Lu" Oliver on May 3, 1952, in Pocahontas, Ark. She survives.

Also surviving are a daughter Dr. Sheila Zell Hall Kennedy and her husband, Earl C. Humphres, of Seattle, Wash.; three sons and daughters-in-law, Rick R. and Denise Hall of Auburn, Bret B. and Teresa Hall of Waterloo, and Todd T. and Cindy Hall of Auburn; one brother and sister-in-law, Dr. Larry L. and Patricia Hall of Mayfield, Ky.; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Emerson E. Hall.

Services will be today at 10 a.m. at the Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo, with the Rev. David Snodderly officiating.

Calling was Friday from 2 to 4 at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Agape Assembly of God Church, Waterloo.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mark's Lutheran Church basement remodeling fund, 217 W. Main St., Butler, IN 46721.

Condolences may be left at or the online guest book may be signed at oberlin-turnbull.com.

THE EVENING STAR

2009 Auburn, Indiana

August 23

'Jessy' Gustin, 8, loved the water

BY SUE CARPENTER
suec@kpcnews.net

GARRETT — "Jessy would just light up the room whenever she walked in," Fred Gustin said of his daughter.

Jesslynn "Jessy" Gustin, 8, died Aug. 3 from carbon-monoxide poisoning, which occurred while she was riding in a boat on Roush Lake in Huntington County the day before.

"It was just a normal day at the lake," Gustin said of the fateful chain of events. "Everything we did that day, we had done before."

He and his daughters, Jazmin "Jazzy," 10, and Jessy often made the trip to Roush Lake to enjoy water sports with Gustin's brother, of Fort Wayne, who owns the boat.

"It was the same boat we used for the past five years. We would take it out every weekend and hit the lakes," he said.

They would spend the day tubing, wakeboarding, surfing and skiing, "you name it," he said. "Jessy loved everything to do with water. That was all we would do."

That particular Sunday, the waters were busy with other boaters, so Gustin maneuvered their boat to a shallow area past a bridge to get out of the wake.

Five young girls were seated in the same area at the rear of the boat as it idled in water about 3 feet deep, he said.

"Ten minutes prior, Jessy was swimming and having a great time. Two minutes earlier, I was talking to her," said Gustin.

One of the cousins yelled, "Jessy fell in the lake and is drowning!"

In such shallow water and knowing his daughter was a good swimmer, Fred Gustin didn't get excited immediately.

"It took me a second — I thought they were messing with me — it wasn't like the kids not to do that," he said.

Gustin stood up and didn't see Jessy. In a matter of 10 seconds, six people were in the lake, looking for her in the clear waters.

"I want to say within 30 seconds — it felt like an eternity — I found her and pulled her out of the water.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Jesslyn Gustin

And I froze. I didn't know what to do.

"My brother grabbed her and began CPR. She had a pulse and began coughing up some things from lunch a couple hours before," Gustin said.

In a matter of 5 to 10 minutes, the boat returned to the shore, where friends assisted them until medics from Huntington County EMS arrived on the scene. Emergency workers lost Jessy's pulse for a short time, and then it returned about 15-20 minutes later. At the same time, a rescue helicopter had landed and remained on standby to take her to the hospital.

"All those guys, it was blood, sweat and tears trying to get my daughter alive. They tried their hardest," Gustin said.

The pilot told Gustin to go to Parkview Hospital's main campus in Fort Wayne.

"We made a 25-minute trip out of a 40-minute drive," he said.

When he arrived, hospital staff told Gustin his daughter's vital signs were stable, but a CT scan showed massive brain swelling. By morning, results were the same, confirming that no blood was circulating in her brain.

Gustin and Jessy's mother, who resides in Ohio, had chosen for her to become an organ donor, so Jessy remained on life support until the procedure could be done.

"But her organs started shutting down and threw out some kind of acids that destroyed all her organs," Gustin said. "We were only able to donate her heart valves."

Gustin is unable to explain why the boat engine's fumes affected Jessy, when those next to her were not harmed.

"We had Jazzy tested while we were at the hospital, and she was just fine," said Gustin.

"I had life insurance on Jessy through work, but my brother had begun selling insurance, and I actually took the kids off of (that policy) the month before to have my brother put insurance on them through his company — but it just never happened," Gustin said.

The school year was about to begin, so he used the money for the insurance premium to buy school clothes, intending to begin the policy soon thereafter.

"Who thinks their child will need life insurance at 8 years old?" he said of his decision to wait a few weeks on the purchase.

Although he has no clue as to the total of the hospital charges, Gustin said his medical insurance covers 80 percent of the cost. With funeral expenses and life-flight costs, his out-of-pocket expenses will amount to some $15,000 to $20,000.

A group of parents and friends approached him about a benefit for the Gustin family to help with the expenses. A Web site, jesslynn-gustin.com, offers more information about the fundraiser.

"I am grateful for everything they are doing for us, but I am not looking for a handout. It would just take me longer to pay (all the bills) off," Gustin said.

Gustin is a native of Woodburn. He and his daughters moved from Fort Wayne to Garrett last fall, so they could attend a smaller school. Jessy would have been a third-grader at J.E. Ober Elementary School in Garrett this year.

Robert Carpenter

ASHLEY — Robert Lee Carpenter, aged 93, passed away in his rural Ashley home on Aug. 21, 2009.

One of three children, he was born July 18, 1916, to Claude L. Carpenter and Leona Odessa "Dessie" (Ransburg) Carpenter at their home in Pleasant Lake.

Mr. Carpenter

Robert was a graduate of the Ashley High School class of 1934. As a teenager during the Depression, he worked in the onion fields, eventually making his way to work at the Ford Motor Company's Highland Park Plant building gun directors during World War II. He became an electrician while attending Ford Trade School.

After 10 years in Detroit and a year in Ford Hospital battling tuberculosis, Robert returned to Ashley to run the family farm while working at the Dana Spicer Clutch Division in Auburn. He retired with the title of Plant Engineer in 1979. He helped build and was co-owner of the Star Light Motel in Auburn from the late '60s to mid-late '70s.

Robert attended the United Brethren Church in Hudson. He also enjoyed gardening and listening to Rush Limbaugh.

He was married July 20, 1963, and is survived by his wife of 46 years, Doris Virginia (Morr) Carpenter; their son, Jack Carpenter of Ashley; a daughter, Janet Carpenter of Waterloo, and a daughter and son-in-law, Roberta and Charles Bennett of Columbia City; five grandchildren, Cassandra Baliga, Teddy D. Lepley III, and Janelle L. Kell of Waterloo, and Hannah and Rachel Bennett of Columbia City. He is also survived by two nieces and their spouses, Deborah and Allen Teegardin of Kendallville, Shirley (Gramling) King of Angola of Angola; and nephew Douglas Gramling of Eaton Rapids, Mich.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Ruth Virginia Gramling and Frances Olivia Allen; and a niece, Cynthia (Allen) Seater.

A memorial service will be held Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the United Brethren Church at 516 North Main Street, Hudson, with Pastor Craig E. Burkholder officiating. Calling is at the church from 4-6 p.m.

Memorials are to the United Brethren Church in Hudson.

Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of services.

Elsie Schlotterback

GARRETT —Elsie E. Schlotterback, 78 of Garrett, died on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2009, at 5:45 a.m. at Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home in Garrett.

Mrs. Schlotterback

She was born April 27, 1931 in Marysville, Ohio, to Walter and Laura (Rausch) Kleiber. She married Earl M. Schlotterback on Dec. 8, 1950, in Garrett. He passed away Aug. 3, 2002. Elsie worked at the Creek Chub Bait Company and also co-owned Schlotterback's Grocery. She was a member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Garrett and former member of the Garrett Garden Club.

She is survived by a son, Edward Schlotterback of Garrett; son and daughter in-law, Eugene and Lorna Schlotterback of Garrett; her brother, Ralph and Grace Ann Kleiber of Raymond, Ohio; sisters, Loren and Bernette Nicol and Ray and Dorothy McCarty, all of Marysville, Ohio. Also surviving is her uncle, Alfred Blumenschein of Marysville, Ohio, and her aunts Bertha and Frances Kleiber of Marysville, Ohio. Also surviving is a granddaughter, Kim Miceli of Fort Wayne; granddaughter, Mark and Bethany Heileman of Kendallville; granddaughter, Emily Schlotterback of Kendallville and grandson, Brett Schlotterback of Kendallville. Elsie's great-grandchildren are Starr Grubb of Kendallville, Esa Wnetrzak of Fort Wayne, Mason Fulk, Melissa Heileman, Christian Heileman and Brenden Heileman, all of Kendallville. She is also survived by several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and daughter, Deborah K. Schlotterback.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, from 4-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett, and one hour prior to the service at church. The funeral service will be held on Thursday at 11 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Garrett with Pastor Jeffrey Horn officiating. Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

Memorials are to the Lutheran Hour. To send a condolence or sign the online guest-book go to www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

THE EVENING STAR

2009 Auburn, Indiana

August 24

Phyllis Reas

EDGERTON, Ohio — Phyllis M. Reas, 77, of Edgerton, Ohio, died at 1:48 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009, at Community Hospitals ands Wellness Centers, Bryan, Ohio, where she had been admitted on Saturday.

Mrs. Reas

Mrs. Reas was a nurses' aide at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn, Ind., retiring with 31 years of service. She was an emergency medical technician at DeKalb Memorial Hospital and also was a charter member of the Butler E.M.S., serving for 12 years. She was a member of the Butler Eagles.

She was born on Aug. 29, 1931, in Waterloo, Ind., the daughter of Clarence and Elva (Roose) Beard. She married Lavon A. Reas on Oct. 4, 1947, in Montpelier, Ohio, and he survives.

Surviving in addition to her husband are two sons and daughters-in-law, Richard "Jake" and Rosanne Reas of Hesperia, Mich., and Keith "Ike" and Beth Reas of Butler, Ind.; a daughter and son-in-law, Jeanette and Dan Nickels of Edgerton; a stepdaughter and her husband, Carolyn and Lynn Myers, of Kendallville; 12 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; five stepgreat-grandchildren; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Inez and Robert Prosser of Wabash, Ind., and Beverly Davis of Butler; and three brothers and sisters-in-law, Loren and Nina Beard of Ogdensburg, N.Y., Lloyd and Teresa Beard of Butler and David and Sue Beard of Spencerville, Ind.

She was preceded in death by one great-grandson, Colton Reas.

Calling will be today from 4-8 p.m. and Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Krill Funeral Home, Edgerton. Services will be Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the Krill Funeral Home in Edgerton, with Pastor Chris Mosley officiating. Interment will follow in Maple Grove Cemetery, Edgerton.

Memorials in the name of Phyllis M. Reas may be given to a charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent to and the online register signed at www.krillfuneralservice.com.

THE EVENING STAR

2009 Auburn, Indiana

August 25

Richard Perry

SEBRING, Fla. — Richard "Dick" Perry, 85, of Sebring died Saturday, Aug. 22, 2009.

Mr. Perry moved to the area in 1993 from Cromwell, Ind.

He retired from Sroufe Manufacturing in 1987.

Mr. Perry graduated from Wawaka High in 1942 and was an Army Air Corps veteran of World War II where he received several commendations.

He was a member of Spring Lake United Methodist Church. He was also a member of the American Legion Post at Avon Park, Fla., and a former member of the American Legion Post at Albion, Ind.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Wilma; three daughters, Penny (Jim) Boss of LaGrange, Ind., Joy (Brad) Patrick of Ligonier, Ind., and Lisa (Richard) Porter of Goshen, Ind.; two stepsons, Ron (Cathy) Bruce of Kendallville, Ind., and Dennis (Debra) Bruce of Corunna, Ind.; one stepdaughter, Maxine (Ron) Hart of Lake of the Woods, Hudson, Ind.; 13 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and four younger brothers.

A memorial service will be held 3 p.m. Sunday at Spring Lake United Methodist Church.

Memorials are to Spring Lake United Methodist Church or Tidewell Hospice.

Banks/Page-Theus Funeral Home, Wildwood, Fla., is in charge of arrangements.

On line condolences may be left at www.bankspagetheus.com.

Jean Foot

BUTLER — Jean Hatcher Foot, 94, formerly of Winnetka, Ill., died Friday, Aug. 21, 2009, at Laurels of DeKalb in Butler where she had moved to be near her daughter.

Mrs. Foot

Jean was born on Feb. 15. 1915, in Detroit, Mich., to Florence Pulfer Hatcher and Leslie Clayton Hatcher.

She was the older sister of Thomas Clayton Hatcher and John Keighley Hatcher, both of whom have preceded her.

She grew up in Detroit and Grosse Pointe, graduating valedictorian from Grosse Pointe High School and attending University of Michigan where she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Jean joined the American Red Cross in 1942 and served as the head of several Clubmobile Units that were attached to First Army Corps. After a year in England, her units followed the D-Day invasion and the Battle of the Bulge. Jean was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service by Gen. Omar Bradley.

At the conclusion of hostilities, Jean was stationed in Bavaria where she met Robert Montayne Foot, her brother John's commanding officer. They later married in Chicago and moved to southern Indiana where their daughter, Christine, was born in 1950. Robert died in 1991.

In 1960, the family moved to Winnetka, Ill., where Jean resided for most of the remainder of her life.

She was active in Christ Church, Winnetka, Lawrence Hall and ran a successful business, Decoupage Unlimited with her partner, Glynn Taylor, for 15 years.

Jean is survived by her daughter, Christine and her husband Michael Heroy of Angola and four grandchildren, Christopher Clifton Heroy, Catherine Clayton Heroy, Andrew Montayne Heroy and Margaret Anne Heroy.

Memorials should be directed to the American Red Cross or the Breeden YMCA in Angola.

Private family services will be held in the fall in Winnetka, Ill.

Beams Funeral Home in Fremont is in charge of arrangements.

Richard Perry

SEBRING, Fla. — Richard "Dick" Perry, 85, of Sebring died Saturday, Aug. 22, 2009.

Mr. Perry moved to the area in 1993 from Cromwell, Ind.

He retired from Sroufe Manufacturing in 1987.

Mr. Perry graduated from Wawaka High in 1942 and was an Army Air Corps veteran of World War II where he received several commendations.

He was a member of Spring Lake United Methodist Church. He was also a member of the American Legion Post at Avon Park, Fla., and a former member of the American Legion Post at Albion, Ind.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Wilma; three daughters, Penny (Jim) Boss of LaGrange, Ind., Joy (Brad) Patrick of Ligonier, Ind., and Lisa (Richard) Porter of Goshen, Ind.; two stepsons, Ron (Cathy) Bruce of Kendallville, Ind., and Dennis (Debra) Bruce of Corunna, Ind.; one stepdaughter, Maxine (Ron) Hart of Lake of the Woods, Hudson, Ind.; 13 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and four younger brothers.

A memorial service will be held 3 p.m. Sunday at Spring Lake United Methodist Church.

Memorials are to Spring Lake United Methodist Church, 8170 Cozumel Lane, Highway 98 South, Sebring, FL 33876 or Tidewell Hospice, 4151 37th St. E., Mendoza Road, Palmetto, FL 34220.

Banks/Page-Theus Funeral Home, Wildwood, Fla., is in charge of arrangements.

On line condolences may be left at www.bankspagetheus.com.

Dorothy Stalter

GARRETT — Dorothy M. Stalter, 85 of Garrett died Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2009, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

She had worked at G.E. in Fort Wayne and was a greeter at Walmart in Auburn for many years.

She was a member of the Women of the Moose and the DAV.

She was born in Decatur on Sept. 10, 1923 to Emil and Louise (Savio) Kiefer.They have both passed away.

She married Dale W. Stalter on Oct. 18, 1941, in Fort Wayne. He died in August of 1983.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Larry D. and Pat Stalter of Garrett; three grandsons, Eric Stalter of Garrett, Ken (Nicole) Stalter of Garrett and Brian (Tracey) Stalter of Garrett.

There are three great-grandchildren, Sammantha Stalter, Nicolas Stalter and Klarissa Stalter, and two stepgreat-grandchildren, Chelsi Maurer and Nick Gaumer.

Also surviving is a sister-in-law, Liz Kiefer of Auburn.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband;a brother, Emil "Bud" Kiefer; and three sisters, Marie Shirley, Helen Beberstine and Ruth Kenworthy.

Private family services will take place with burial in Decatur Cemetery, Decatur.

Memorials can be directed to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is assisting the family with arrangements.

Howard Porter

KENDALLVILLE — Howard Porter, 62, passed away Wednesday, August 26, 2009, at his residence in Kendallville.

Mr. Porter

Born in Townsend, Mont., he was a retired member of the U.S. Navy for 22 years and a proud Vietnam veteran who served his country.

After his retirement, he was a truck driver with DGI Trucking for nine years.

He was a wonderful, loving husband, father, and grandfather.

He is survived by his wife, Adelma Porter of Kendallville; four daughters, Wendy Porter of Churubusco, Heather (Joe) Williams of Kendallville, Holly (Chris) Prater of LaOtto, and Amber (Steve) Roberts of Auburn; grandchildren, Grace Roberts, Eden Roberts, Mia Roberts, Hudson Roberts and Emma Porter; a brother, George "Mike" (Keeley) Porter of Wasilla, Alaska; and many brothers-in-law, and sisters-in-law.

Howard was preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Melva May Porter.

Service is 2 p.m. Saturday at D.O. McComb and Sons Covington Knolls Funeral Home, 8325 Covington Road, with calling one hour prior. Rev. Michael Thatcher Jr. will be officiating.

Calling also will be from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Burial in Greenlawn Memorial Park. Memorials may be made to the Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana.

To sign the online guest book, go to www.mccombandsons.com

Denton Bryant

FORT WAYNE — Denton Alan Bryant, 4 months, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Auburn, died Monday, Aug. 24, 2009, at his home in Fort Wayne.

He was born April 25, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn to Curtis and Samantha (Harrell) Bryant. They both survive.

Also surviving are a sister, Faith Michelle Harrell; his maternal grandparents, Suzanne and Timothy Hullinger, and Tom Barnes; his paternal grandparents, Randy and Gail Williams, Mike Books, and Carlene and Larry Holtsclaw; his maternal great-grandparents, Dorsey and Mary Robinson; his paternal great-grandparents, Phillip Bryant, and Ora Bryant; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by a maternal grandfather, Roger Robinson.

Services will be 1:30 p.m. Friday at Roselawn Cemetery in Auburn with Father Derrick Sneyd officiating.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, Auburn.

Memorials may be directed to the Denton Bryant Memorial Garden in care of Curtis Bryant.

Charles Wood

GARRETT — Charles E. Wood, 64, of Garrett died at 6:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009, at his home.

Mr. Wood was a supervisor at Garrett Flexible Products and Rubber Data Engineering in Garrett for 45 years, retiring in 2006.

He was an avid Kentucky Wildcat fan.

He was born Dec. 19, 1944, in Glomaur, Ky., to Richard and Chloe (Pickett) Wood and they preceded him in death. He married Georgia Gamble on March 23, 1963, in Scuddy, Ky., and she survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Pam and Jerald McBride of Garrett; a son, Charles E. Wood Jr. of Garrett; five grandchildren, Megan Ann McBride of Garrett, Tristan Elizabeth McBride of Auburn, Carley Rose McBride of Garrett, Chad Richard Wood of Garrett and Zachary Edward Wood of Garrett; and a great-grandson, Jarix Michael Wood of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Howard Pickett and Eugene Wood; and three sisters, Carol Gamble, LaVern Harmon and Joyce Ann Lee.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett with Pastor David Mix officiating.

Calling will be from 2-6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

A graveside service will take place at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Woodstock Cemetery, Eubank, Ky.

Send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Anita Cusick

WATERLOO — Anita C. Cusick, 73, died Friday, Aug. 28, 2009, at her home in Waterloo.

Mrs. Cusick worked at Essex in Auburn, Ball Brass Foundry and Artistic Cartons before retiring on April 30, 1998.

She was born April 9, 1936, in East Palestine, Ohio, to Alfred J. and Leona M. (Marshall) Morey. They are both deceased. She married James J. Cusick on May 22, 1954, in East Palestine. He died July 3, 1998.

She is survived by two sons and a daughter-in-law, James A and Lori Cusick of Waterloo and Gary B. Cusick of Waterloo; two daughters and son-in-laws, Brenda and J.J. Bowers of Waterloo and Cheryl and Howard Richardson of Waterloo; 14 grandchildren; seven stepgrandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and a sister, Barbara R Cusick of Lisbon, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, a son Timothy C. Cusick and a grandson Robert Richardson.

Private family graveside services will take place at a later date at Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Memorials are to DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo is assisting the family with arrangements.

Robert Shirely

ASHLEY — Robert M. Shirely, 54, died at 8:35 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

Mr. Shirely had formerly worked at Covington Box Co. in Waterloo.

He was born March 13, 1955, in Fort Wayne to Alfred and Joyce (Espich) Shirely. His father is deceased and his mother, Joyce Shirely Jackson, survives in Ashley.

Also surviving are a daughter, Dana Shirely of Auburn, and three brothers, Alfred Shirely of Fort Wayne, Ernest Shirely of Fort Wayne and Ronald Shirely of Ashley.

Also preceding him in death was a sister, Mary Wicker, and a brother, Mark Shirely.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Johnson Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Hudson with Justin Smoot officiating.

Burial will be in Circle Cemetery in Hudson.

Calling will be from 5-7 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Vernon Hullinger

BUTLER — Vernon L. Hullinger, 84, passed away at his home on August 27, 2009.

He was born in Fort Pierce, South Dakota, on December 2, 1924, to Elmer and Ruth (Winchell) Hullinger.

Vernon moved with his family to Indiana from South Dakota in 1939.

He was a loving, devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

He drove truck for 47 years and retired from Automatic Sprinkler in Monroe, Indiana, in 1987.

Vernon was a member of Teamsters Local 414.

He was an avid fan of Gene Autry and Major League Baseball.

He married his wife of 65 years Annabell Oberlin Hullinger on January 15, 1944.

He is survived by his wife; three sons, Gene L. Hullinger of Weatherford, Texas, Jerry W. Hullinger of Edgerton, Ohio, and Jimmie L. Hullinger of St. Joe, Indiana; a daughter, Shirley K. Hullinger of Fort Wayne, Indiana; 12 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and three brothers, Allen Hullinger of Butler, Eldon Hullinger of Fort Wayne and Frank Hullinger of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his parents two brothers, Harold "Pete" Hullinger and Donald Dean Hullinger; two sisters, Myrtle Henderson and Nyla Hullinger; and a grandson, Mitchell V. Hullinger.

Funeral services for Vernon L. Hullinger will be Monday, August 31, 2009, at 11 a.m. at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with calling Sunday from 2-4 and 6-8.

Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery.

Preferred memorials are to DeKalb Hospice or the donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

THE EVENING STAR

August 30 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Morris put love of nature to work

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Donna Morris didn't have the typical start for a woman who fell in love with nature, daughter Janie Shirey said.

"She grew up in the city of Muncie, near the river and the city dump," Shirey said. "She had this .22-caliber rifle that she'd sometimes take over to the dump and shoot rats with. She grew up a tom-boy and she always was a tom-boy."

Morris, 90, died Aug. 13 in Angola.

Morris' son, Jay Stevens, said his mother originally came to Angola to teach at Angola High School, which she did for a year, before meeting and marrying her husband, Max Stevens.

Shirey said her mother had been working at a summer camp when she met her father. Although she left teaching after just one year, Stephens said his mother didn't really stop teaching. She taught Sunday school at Angola United Methodist Church and was heavily involved with the local Girl Scouts.

Scouting was a major part of Morris' life for many years. Stephens said his mother wasn't able to be involved with Scouting in her youth.

"There were no Scout troops in her part of town," he said. "So she wrote to them and they let her be a 'lone Scout.' So she worked on merit badges and things on her own, and through the mail. Eventually, she was able to get a troop started."

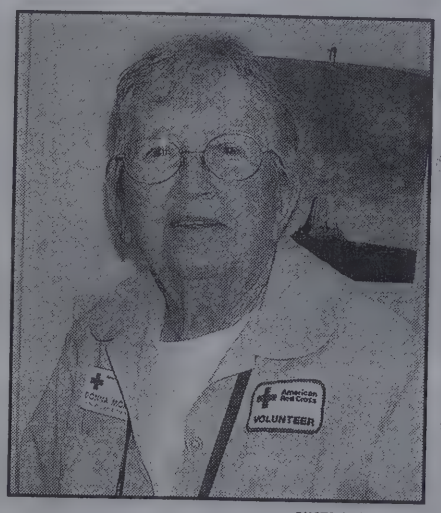


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Donna Morris of Angola spent much of her life celebrating her love of nature. Morris volunteered at national parks as aguide and served as a board member of the McClue Nature Preserve.

When she came to Angola, Morris became heavily involved with area Scouts, acting as as scout leader, including starting a troop for students at the predecessor to R.I.S.E., the Community Sheltered Workshop.

Stephens said his mother became fascinated by nature early in life.

"She had a teacher who was very interested in birds and she'd take students out bird-watching. That got her into nature. Scouting was a way to get involved with those pursuits," he said.

Shirey said her mother would often take her children out for bird-watching expeditions.

"She would take us out to the woods to look for warblers."

Morris was one of the original board members for the McClue Nature Preserve on C.R. 400N, east of Wing Haven Nature Preserve and Pokagon State Park. Stevens said the family spent a good deal of time out at the preserve, helping develop it.

"We worked out there putting in trails and planting trees," Stevens said. "She always shared her love of nature with all of her children."

Later in her life, when she began wintering in Florida, Morris began volunteering at Everglades National Park.

"She fell in love with the place," Stephens said. "After my father passed away, she started volunteering there as a guide."

Shirey said her mother was an inspiration to her, and she began her own volunteer work at Big Cypress National Park.

"She was instrumental in steering me into that. My husband and I visited her while she was volunteering. A lot of what I've done in my life has been following in her footsteps," Shirey said.

Stephens said his mother was heavily involved in a number of other efforts as well, making a trip to Africa for Habitat for Humanity, and working with Cambodian refugees.

THE EVENING STAR

2009 Auburn, Indiana

August 30

Marianna Rist

GARRETT — Marianna Rist, 94, of Evans, Ga., formerly of Garrett, died at 6:26 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28, 2009, at Westwood Nursing Facility in Evans, Ga.

She worked as a housekeeper at the Sacred Heart Hospital in Garrett for 12 years before retiring in 1964. She was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Garrett, Rosary Society and the Harvest House.

On March 27, 1915, in Militisch, Yugoslavia, she was born to Jacob and Veronica (Ivanovich) Schnepf. She married Peter Rist in 1933 in Militisch, Yugoslavia. He preceded her in death in 1944.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth "Liz" and Stanley Greenberg, North Augusta, S.C.; six grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Garrett, with Fr. Andrew Nazareth officiating. Burial will follow in Calvary Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling will be from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4, 2009 at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett.

In lieu of flowers memorials are to St. Joseph Catholic Church or St. Martin's Health Clinic.

Condolences may be sent online or to sign the online register go to www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

THE EVENING STAR

August 31 2009 Auburn, Indiana

James Codling

GARRETT — James E. Codling, 80, of Garrett, died at 9:40 p.m. Monday, Aug. 24, 2009.

A memorial service will be at 6 p.m. Thursday with calling from 5-6 p.m. Military honors will be presented by the Garrett American Legion and VFW at the end of the services at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett.

Harry Watson

CROMWELL — Harry Edward Watson, 90, a longtime Cromwell resident and retired area business owner, passed away on Thursday, August 27, 2009, at Parkview Memorial Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Harry was the owner of the longtime business named Scout Sales and Service. While owning his business, he was known as "the Jack of all trades" and "if Harry couldn't build or fix it, it was not possible."

Harry also proudly served his country during World War II in the United States Navy.

He was also a member of the Fort Wayne Oddfellows, Goshen Moose Lodge 836, West Noble American Legion Post 243, Cromwell Masonic Lodge F&AM 1705 and the Fort Wayne Scottish Rite, Mizpah Fort Wayne.

Harry was born on January 8, 1919, in Auburn, Indiana, to the late Thomas Floyd and Frances Agnes (Rinihold) Watson.

On November 12, 1956, in Angola he married the late Evelyn (Swonger) Watson. She passed away on January 17, 2007.

His survivors include three sons and their spouses, Kenneth and Cyndi Watson of Ligonier, Terry and Sherry Bair of Ligonier and Larry and Lee Ellen Bair of Warsaw; three daughters and a spouse, Bonnie Lou and Floyd Affolder of Fort Wayne, Linda Jeweitt of Arcola, Indiana, Sharon Garner of Lisbon, Indiana; 17 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; nine great-great-grandchildren; one brother, Paul Watson of Auburn; and a sister, Mabel Hook of Middletown, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Evelyn; his parents; and 1 brother, Oscar Watson.

Cremation has taken place.

A memorial service including a Masonic service conducted by the Cromwell Masonic Lodge F&AM 1705 will be held on Thursday, September 3, 2009, at 7 p.m. at the Ulrey-Renner & Brazzell Funeral Home and Cremation Service.

Memorial visitation will be two hours prior to the memorial service.

Following the memorial service, the West Noble American Legion Post 243 will provide military honors.

Burial will be held at a later date at the Sparta Cemetery in Kimmell.

The family suggests memorials be directed to the Shriners Hospital.

To view the obituary online or to sign the online guest register go to www.brazzellfuneralhome.com.

Sharon Dietrich

BUTLER — Sharon L. Dietrich, 60, of Butler and formerly of Lafayette, Ind., died Saturday, Aug. 29, 2009, in her home in Butler.

Private family burial will be held at Rest Haven Cemetery in Lafayette.

Arrangements are by Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, Spencerville, Ind.

Marvin Hall

GARRETT — Marvin Hall, 86, of Garrett, died Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Tom Novy officiating.

Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

Calling will be from 1-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Garrett Middle School Athletic Department of the St. Joseph Catholic School.

Philip O'Connor

HAMILTON — Philip G. O'Connor, 49, of Hamilton died Tuesday, Sept, 1, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He worked at Country Stone in Waterloo.

He was born Jan. 3, 1960, in Fort Wayne. His father, Paul O'Connor, is deceased. His mother and stepfather, Coral (Murphy) and Joe Martin, survive in Aloha, Ore. He married Debra Ervin on Sept. 19, 1981, in St. Marks Lutheran Church in Auburn and she survives.

He is also survived by two sons, Aaron O'Connor of Vincennes and Jared O'Connor of Hamilton; four brothers, Rick Bice of Flower Mound, Texas, Randy Bice of Aloha, Ore., Dan Bice of Redding, Calif., and Ron O'Connor of South Bend; and three sisters, Penny Kettles of Santa Rosa, Calif., Pamela Lessnan of Santa Rosa, Calif., and Kimberly O'Connor of Hamilton.

Services will be 11 a.m. Saturday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Pastor Jack Smith will officiate.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to the family.

Herbert Jarnagin

AUBURN — Herbert R. Jarnagin, 82, of Auburn died Monday, Sept. 1, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Jarnagin joined the U.S. National Guard at the age of 15. He then joined the U.S. Navy at the age of 17, where he served during World War II as a Seaman First Class, serving on the USS Silver Cloud.

Mr. Jarnagin

He worked as a machinist for Auburn Gear before retiring in 1988 after 20 years of service.

He was born on July 23, 1927, in Harriman, Tenn., to Herbert Roy and Carrie Mae (Coolie) Jarnagin.

He is survived by three sons and two daughters-in-law, Gary and Doris Jarnagin of Indianapolis, Harold and Sandra Jarnagin of Auburn and Tim Jarnagin of Auburn; two daughters and a son-in-law, Julie Huffman of Auburn and Berniece and Robert Steller of Louisville, Ky.; one brother, Wayne Jarnagin of Harriman, Tenn.; one sister, Saundra Wolfe of Mesquite, Texas; 14 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; the mother of his children, Margaret E. Jarnagin; two sons, Terry Jarnagin and Mitchell Jarnagin; and one sister, Helen Morgan.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor Bill Lyne officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn, with military graveside services being conducted by Auburn American Legion Post 97.

Calling will be from noon to 2 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Dayspring Community Church.

Ronald Halferty

COLDWATER, Mich. — Ronald W. Halferty, 45, of Waterloo, Ind., and formerly of Coldwater died unexpectedly on Monday, August 31, 2009, in Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. Halferty

He attended Coldwater High School and served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Mr. Halfertly relocated to Waterloo, Ind., and worked for the R. White Construction Co. in Metz, Ind., for the past 18 years, traveling throughout the eastern U.S. building canopies for outdoor structures.

Ron was an outdoorsman who enjoyed riding motorcycles and scooters, fishing, camping and shooting guns.

He also enjoyed music and was skilled in wood carving and writing poetry.

Ron was born March 23, 1964, in Coldwater to Donald and Norma (Gordon) Halferty. His father, Donald Halferty, preceded him in death. His mother and stepfather, Norma and Henry Findley, survive in Coldwater.

Also surviving are his significant other Lynn White of Waterloo; his daughter, Amy Halferty of Waterloo; his brother, Scott Halferty and his companion, Deb McKee, of Coldwater; his stepdaughter, Carrie; his stepsister, Misty (Rik) Kaiser of Coldwater; his stepgrandchildren, Notasin and Distany; and his stepgrandmother, Jo Ann Halferty of Coldwater.

He was also preceded in death by his maternal and paternal grandparents.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009, at 3 p.m. at Dutcher Funeral Home in Coldwater.

The family will receive friends prior to the service on Tuesday beginning at 1 p.m.

Interment will be at a later date at Oak Grove Cemetery in Coldwater.

Memorials may be directed to the family for Ron's headstone.

Please visit www.dutcherfh.com to share a thought in the family guestbook.

Anna Wehr

AUBURN — Anna L. Wehr, 85, of Auburn and formerly of Corunna died Thursday, Sept. 3, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Services will be 2 p.m. Sunday at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 10275 E. 550S, Hudson, with the Rev. Jim Elsner officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery, rural Corunna.

Calling will be from 2-5 p.m. Saturday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials may be directed to the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, DeKalb County Heart Association, or the RSVP of DeKalb County.

Wallace Licorish

CORUNNA — Wallace N. "Wally" Licorish, 87, of Corunna died Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2009, at 9:20 p.m. in Wesley Healthcare at Auburn.

Mr. Licorish

Mr. Licorish had lived in this area since 2003, coming from Florida where he had lived for 25 years.

He had worked as an engineering supervisor for Ford Motor Co. in Dearborn, Mich., for 30 years.

He was an Army veteran of World War II, and a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville.

He was born Feb. 3, 1922, in Chicago, Ill., to Archibald Fitz-Royden "Bob" and Iris Messiah (Rock) Licorish. He married Dolores L. (Mix) Hunter on Sept. 23, 1972, in Redford, Mich. She survives in Corunna.

Also surviving are a son, Thomas Licorish; two daughters, Linda Licorish of Detroit, Mich., and Evyon DuPres of Chelsey, Mich. ; a stepson and his wife, Kent R. and Janet Hunter of Corunna; three grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; a brother, Milton Licorish of Arizona; and a sister, Lena Aubrey of Arizona.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Ray Licorish; a sister, Emily Licorish; and a stepdaughter, Kim L. Kaylor.

Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Sunday in the worship center of St. John Lutheran Church, 301 S. Oak St., Kendallville, with the Rev. Paul B. Griebel officiating.

Calling will be from 2-3 p.m. Sunday at the church.

Memorials are to St. John Lutheran Church or Church Doctor Ministries.

Arrangements are by Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR
September 4 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Marvin Hall

ALTONA — Marvin Hall, 86, of Altona died Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Hall

Mr. Hall was a U.S. Army World War II veteran. During his time in service, he was a member of the U.S. Army basketball traveling team where he played against the original Harlem Globetrotters team.

He worked for the Zollner Pistons Company in Fort Wayne until he retired in 1986. He was currently working for the City of Garrett, where he had been employed for more than 20 years.

He was a member of the Garrett American Legion, Garrett Eagles and the Zollner Quarter Century Club.

He volunteered for the Garrett Recycling Service for more than 20 years and the Altona Volunteer Fire Department for more than 40 years.

He was also a volunteer coach for the Garrett High School football and track and field teams, and was on the selection committee for the Wall of Fame at Garrett High School.

He was born on Sept. 26, 1922, in Altona to Jay and Lillie May (Metzler) Hall.

He married Kate Johns on July 24, 1947, in Toledo, Ohio. She survives.

Also surviving is a daughter and son-in-law, Bev and Cliff Gunion of Garrett; two grandsons and their spouses, Chip and Carrie Gunion of Garrett and Bud and Catina Gunion of Cary, N.C.; and four great-grandchildren, Gabe Gunion, Jordan Gunion, Brennecke Gunion and Braeton Gunion.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Mary Gravit and Violet Richardson; and six brothers, Wilford "Ding" Hall, Jake Hall, Rich Hall, Fred Hall, Robert Hall and John Hall.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009, at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Tom Novy officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett with military graveside services being conducted by the Garrett American Legion.

Calling will be from 1-8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 7, 2009, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Garrett Middle School Athletic Department or the St. Joseph Catholic School.

Anna Wehr

AUBURN — Anna L. Wehr, 85, of Auburn and formerly of Corunna died Thursday, Sept. 3, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Wehr worked as a packer for Kraft Foods in Kendallville for 17 years, retiring in 1987.

She was a member of the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Hudson.

She was also a member of the Fairfield Friendship Club and the RSVP of DeKalb County.

She was born Jan. 7, 1924, in Helmer to Henry A. and Edith E. (Blech) Kern. She married Frank G. Wehr on Aug. 2, 1943, in Bastrop County, Texas. He died April 11, 1995.

Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Gary and Deanna Wehr of Frankfort, David and Cindy Wehr of Avon and Craig and Jeannie Wehr of Auburn; one daughter, Charlotte Wehr of Fort Wayne; one brother and sister-in-law, Edward and Patricia Kern of Kendallville; 11 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Margaret Kern.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 10275 E. 550S, Hudson, with the Rev. Jim Elsner officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery, rural Corunna.

Calling will be from 2-5 p.m. today at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials may be directed to the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, DeKalb County Heart Association, or the RSVP of DeKalb County.

Carl Bauman

AUBURN — Carl Raymond Bauman, age 89, of Auburn, died on Thursday, September 3, 2009, at 10:23 p.m. at Lutheran Life Villages in Kendallville.

He was born June 9, 1920, in Jefferson Township, Noble County, to Walter and Beulah (Gard) Bauman.

He graduated in 1933 from the Zion one-room Schoolhouse in Jefferson Township. He graduated from Kendallville High School in 1937 and from the International Business School in Fort Wayne with an associate degree in 1939.

He served in the U.S. Naval Reserve during World War II.

He married Lorraine Catherine Hentschel August 18, 1946, in Long Island, New York, and she died June 22, 2007.

Carl worked as a crane operator at the Auburn Foundry. He had 42 years of service when he retired.

He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn for 60 years and a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society "SPEBSQSA" for 21 years.

He is survived by a daughter, Carolyn and Richard Platt of Fort Wayne; a daughter, Janette and Scott Pressler of Auburn; a son, Kenneth and Sherrie Bauman of South Whitley; a daughter, Laura and Paul Gurgos of Bartlett, Ill.; and a sister, O'Donna Uhl of Albion.

Also surviving are seven grandchildren and four stepgrandchildren, one great-grandchild and 1 stepgreat-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, brothers, Robert and Alfred Bauman, and sisters, Esther Bauman and Beatrice Truelove.

A celebration of life service will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2009, at 11 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn with the Rev. Lloyd Bickel officiating.

A gathering of family and friends will be held from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett is in charge of arrangements.

Memorials are to Trinity Lutheran Church or DeKalb Animal Shelter.

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook go to www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, and one hour prior to services Wednesday at the church.

Memorials are to First Christian Church.

To sign the online guest book, or send a condolence, please visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

Bethel Slone

AUBURN — Bethel Slone, 65, of Auburn died Thursday, Sept. 3, 2009, at Wesley Health Care.

Mr. Slone had been employed at the Van Coach in Middlebury and then at Auburn Foundry for eight years.

Mr. Slone

He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving as an aviation mechanic during the Vietnam War.

He was born July 11, 1944, in Larkslane, Ky., the son of the late Garland and Louhettie Slone. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are three brothers and sisters-in-law, Barney and Amy Slone of Garrett, Birchel and Norma Slone of Kendallville, and Theodore and Karen Slone of Waterloo; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Nancy and Bob Vanderpool of Auburn and Nola Moore of Garrett, Ky.; a sister-in-law, Marguerite Slone of Bedford; and many nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, Emery Jim Slone, and a sister, Bertha Daley.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at First Christian Church, 910 N. Indiana Ave., Auburn.

Burial, with U.S. Army military rites, will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

THE EVENING STAR
September 6 2009 Auburn, Indiana

He always saw the funny side

BY JENNY KOBIELA-MONDOR
jennyk@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Life was a series of adventures to Arie VanStraten.

VanStraten and his wife, Catharina, nicknamed Tiny, came to Auburn from Holland in 1957, as part of a displaced persons program, and ended up staying.

"They loved it here," said their daughter, Helen Caldwell.

Arie VanStraten died Aug. 16. He was 81 years old.

"He always had adventures every day," Caldwell said. "He could meet somebody anywhere, and he would come home with stories."

Arie began working for a local cabinet maker and then worked with the Grabill Cabinet Co. before the VanStratens opened their own cabinet company in 1963. They also opened a Montgomery Ward Catalog Agency.

"They pretty much raised the four of us on that," Caldwell said. Caldwell has three siblings: John VanStraten, Eric VanStraten and JoAnn DeVenney.

Caldwell said she remembered her parents once packing up the car and going on a trip with extra money from a cabinet job. The family went as far as they could on half the money, then came back.

"He would do that all the time," she said. "He did not believe in being bored. That, and the words 'shut up.' We were never allowed to say those words."

The pair became U.S. citizens in the 1980s, Caldwell said, mainly so that they could vote on a local issue.

"Voting was really important to both of my parents," she said.

Even near the end of his life, Arie VanStraten wanted to ensure that he would at least live until Nov. 4, 2008, so that he could vote, and he told his doctors and surgeons that, Caldwell said.

"He would tell the doctor that he was going to vote for Obama, and the doctor would say, 'Well …'" Caldwell said.

After retirement, Arie and Tiny moved to Wesley Park Apartments, where Tiny was the manager and Arie was the maintenance man and "chief troublemaker." The pair were always a great team, said the Rev. Dale Williams, who knew the VanStratens through Auburn First United Methodist Church.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Arie VanStraten and his wife, Catharina, "had an incredible love affair going," a friend said.

"He and Tiny just had an incredible love affair going," he said. "I think she was everything to him, and I think he was everything to her, and although it was never said to me, I feel that when Tina passed away so suddenly, I'm sure that something went out of his life that never could be replaced."

Tiny VanStraten died July 21, 2008.

Arie VanStraten always was sure to keep things interesting for the people around him — he was a notorious prankster, and many of his jokes have become the stuff of local legend.

John VanStraten remembered one memorable April Fool's Day, when VanStraten called a local radio station under the guise of a Department of Natural Resources officer. He told the station that a tanker carrying live fish had sprung a leak while driving through DeKalb County. He said the fish had been dumped into a private pond on a farm, and that it was open fishing in the pond. After the radio station broadcast the report, people took off work to go fishing in the pond, where they were not supposed to be.

"He had everyone fooled," John VanStraten said.

Another time, Arie VanStraten had dressed up as Santa Claus, but needed to get gas in his car, said Dick Shankle, a friend. After his gas had been pumped, Arie realized he forgot his wallet.

"He pulls out and says, 'Ho ho ho,'" Shankle said.

Unfortunately, although the owner of the service station knew VanStraten, the teenager who pumped the gas didn't, Caldwell said. He took down the license plate number and called police. Meanwhile, Caldwell had borrowed the car to drive to a friend's house. When she heard the car's description and license plate number come over the police scanner at the friend's home, "I drove home right away and parked it," she said.

VanStraten also played smaller jokes on friends. He once went to the library and tore out every magazine insert he could find to send away for free things using a friend's name and address. The friend received a lot of junk mail, then turned around and, with VanStraten's help, did it to another friend.

When the Rev. Karen Koelsch served as associate pastor at the Auburn First United Methodist Church, VanStraten brought her many cans of food, but tore off all the labels so she wouldn't know what she was going to eat until she opened the cans.

His sense of humor was apparent, Williams said.

"That never really left him to the day he died," he said.

Williams added that, a few months before his death, VanStraten told their Sunday School class about making arrangements for his funeral dinner.

"He said that the lady that was interviewing him was going down the list of questions she had," Williams said. After discussing the menu, "then finally, she said, 'What will be the date of this thing?' Arie said, 'I told her we'd have to wait and let her know that later.' It was funny to him. That's just the way Arie was. He always saw the funny side of things."

THE EVENING STAR
September 6 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Kathleen Kurtz

GARRETT — Kathleen A. Kurtz, 69, of Garrett, died Friday, Sept. 4, 2009, at her residence.

A funeral service will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Thomas Funeral Home with calling from 2-6 p.m. Burial will be Saturday at 10 a.m. at Embrey Cemetery in Garrett.

Calling will be from 2-6 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb Heart Association.

Louis Timmerman

AUBURN — Louis Lavon "Shorty" Timmerman, 78, died Sunday, Sept. 6, 2009 at his home.

He was born June 12, 1931, to Charles and Marjorie (Furnish) Timmerman.

Mr. Timmerman

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving from 1952-1954.

Mr. Timmerman worked for the Partee Company in Spencerville and Foamex in Auburn. He was a member of the Grace Community Church of God in Auburn. He was a former fire chief and volunteer of the Jackson Township Fire Department, and also a 4-H leader.

Mr. Timmerman loved farming, fishing, watching NASCAR and his grandchildren.

He married Gertrude Lavalle Chorpenning on Sept. 30, 1951 in Spencerville. She survives.

Also surviving are three sons and a daughter-in-law: Lynn Timmerman, Lyle and Shelly Timmerman and Lee Timmerman, all of Auburn; a daughter, Linda Timmerman, Auburn; grandchildren, Dusti and Anthony "Dewey" Green, and Jeannie and Justin Timmerman; great grandchildren, MaKyle Green and Summer Haverstock; two step grandchildren, Tina and Tara Petre; four brothers and spouses, Victor and Loretta Timmerman, Howard "Pete" and Barbara Timmerman, James "DeWayne" and Ann Timmerman, and Keith "Timmy" and Sue Timmerman; six sisters and spouses, Shirley and Jack Zimmerman, Patricia and Robert "Bob" Melchi, Eloise Fry, Sharon Snyder, Loree "Peg" and Donnie Baker, and Darlene and Ron Zimmerman; two brothers-in-law and spouses, John and Vonnie Chorpenning, and Perry and Vickie Chorpenning; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, David Lee Timmerman; three sisters, Mozezla Edgar, Anita Fry and Norma Dickson; a sister-in-law, Norma Chorpenning; and five brothers-in-law, LeRoy Edgar, James Fry, Wendall Fry, Jerry Snyder and Jack Dickson; and two nephews, Rick Timmerman and Chad Chorpenning.

Services will be 2 p.m. Wednesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center S., Auburn, with Rev. Paul Burns officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Gertrude Timmerman.

Melvin Maggert

GARRETT — Melvin M. "Jake" Maggert, 68, of Garrett, died at 2:18 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009 at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

He was born Feb. 27, 1941 in Garrett to Forrest and Francis (Reed) Maggert, and they preceded him in death.

Mr. Maggert

He was an Air Force veteran serving during Vietnam. He was a production worker at Stanadyne in Garrett for 13 years until it closed.

Mr. Maggert is survived by his daughter, Tara Maggert, Indianapolis; a son and daughter-in-law, Ty and Robin Maggert, Garrett; and a granddaughter, Macy Maggert, Garrett. He is survived by five brothers: Richard "Sam" Maggert, Clayton Maggert, William "Bill" Maggert, Ralph Maggert and Clifford "Hoggy" Maggert, all of Garrett. Five sisters also survive: Mary Higgins, Juanita Kline, Caroline Creager and Eleanor "Doodie" Perucca, all of Garrett; and Wava Woolard of Alaska.

He was a member of the Garrett Eagles, American Legion and the Alumni Association.

A calling of friends and family will be from 2-8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009 at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett.

A Celebration of Life memorial service will take place at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 11, 2009 at the funeral home with Dr. Scott Shoaff officiating. Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett with military graveside services by the Garrett American Legion and VFW.

Memorials are to the Colon Cancer Alliance.

Condolences may be sent and the online register signed by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Louis Timmerman

AUBURN — Louis Lavon "Shorty" Timmerman, 78, died Sunday, Sept. 6, 2009 at his home.

He was born June 12, 1931, to Charles and Marjorie (Furnish) Timmerman.

Mr. Timmerman

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving from 1952-1954.

Mr. Timmerman worked for the Partee Company in Spencerville and Foamex in Auburn. He was a member of the Grace Community Church of God in Auburn. He was a former fire chief and volunteer of the Jackson Township Fire Department, and also a 4-H leader.

Mr. Timmerman loved farming, fishing, watching NASCAR and his grandchildren.

He married Gertrude Lavalle Chorpenning on Sept. 30, 1951 in Spencerville. She survives.

Also surviving are three sons and a daughter-in-law: Lynn Timmerman, Lyle and Shelly Timmerman and Lee Timmerman, all of Auburn; a daughter, Linda Timmerman, Auburn; grandchildren, Dusti and Anthony "Dewey" Green, Jeannie and Justin Haverstock, Tony Timmerman, Drew Timmerman, Tyler Miller, McCala Terrill and Celina Timmerman; great-grandchildren, MaKyle Green and Summer Haverstock; two stepgrandchildren, Tina and Tara Petre; four brothers and spouses, Victor and Loretta Timmerman, Howard "Pete" and Barbara Timmerman, James "DeWayne" and Ann Timmerman, and Keith "Timmy" and Sue Timmerman; six sisters and spouses, Shirley and Jack Zimmerman, Patricia and Robert "Bob" Melchi, Eloise Fry, Sharon Snyder, Loree "Peg" and Donnie Baker, and Darlene and Ron Zimmerman; two brothers-in-law and spouses, John and Vonnie Chorpenning, and Perry and Vickie Chorpenning; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, David Lee Timmerman; three sisters, Mozezla Edgar, Anita Fry and Norma Dickson; a sister-in-law, Norma Chorpenning; and five brothers-in-law, LeRoy Edgar, James Fry, Wendall Fry, Jerry Snyder and Jack Dickson; and two nephews, Rick Timmerman and Chad Chorpenning.

Services will be 2 p.m. Wednesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center S., Auburn, with Rev. Paul Burris officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Gertrude Timmerman.

Jeffrey Zody

KENDALLVILLE — Jeffrey W. Zody, 46, of Kendallville died Monday, Sept. 7, 2009, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mr. Zody

Mr. Zody was a maintenance manager at Griffith Rubber in Garrett.

He was a member of the U.S. Army and served in Desert Storm.

He was also a member of the Northwest Ohio Blacksmith Association and was a board member of the Mid-America Windmill Museum in Kendallville.

He was born Oct. 1, 1962, in Rochester. He married Leslie Rodgers on April 6, 1987, in Hartford City. She survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are two sons, Navar Zody and Zackery Zody, both at home; his mother, Margaret Moore of Kendallville; his father, Wayne Zody of Michigan; two sisters; and two brothers.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at the Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville.

Calling will be from 5-7 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials are to the Mid-America Windmill Museum, 732 S. Allen Chapel Road, Kendallville, IN 46755.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Robert Griffith

PLEASANT LAKE — Robert C. Griffith, 81, of Pleasant Lake died Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2009, at the home of his son in Rome, Ill.

Mr. Griffith was a member of Mason Lodge No. 614 in Ashley and the Moose Lodge in Angola.

He was born Aug. 8, 1928, in Pleasant Lake to Weir and Lucille (Matson) Griffith. He married Natalie Cleveland on Oct. 23, 1959, in Edon, Ohio. She survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Robert C. and Karen Griffith of Rome, Ill.; three daughters and sons-in-law, Patricia and Ian Benton of Highlands Ranch, Colo.; Deborah and Jeffrey Kilburn of Hartland, Wis., and Barbara and Scott Bitzer of Fishers, Ind.; and 11 grandchildren.

Cremation has taken place.

Private graveside services will be held at a later date in Pleasant Lake Cemetery.

Memorials are to Hospice Care at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn or Hospice Compassus of Peoria, Ill.

The Weber-Hurd Funeral Home of Chillicothe, Ill., is in charge of arrangements.

THE EVENING STAR
September 9 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Carl Knafel

ROME CITY — Carl G. Knafel, 90, of Rome City died Sunday, Sept. 6, 2009, in Parkview LaGrange Hospital in LaGrange.

Mr. Knafel was a self-employed carpenter and stone mason.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge 276, Kendallville.

He was born Nov. 26, 1918, in Wolf Lake to Arthur and Elsie (Emmen) Knafel. He married Bonnie Wray on Jan. 1, 1940, in Kendallville. She preceded him in death on Feb. 19, 1972. He then married Carol (Ross) Wirick on July 10, 1973, in Hayward, Wis. She survives in Rome City.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Karen and John Holsinger of Wolcottville and Connie and Clairdon Strater of Garrett; a son, Terry Knafel of Indianapolis; a stepson, Jack Wirick of Syracuse; 14 grandchildren; six stepgrandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; a sister, Helen Applegate of Albion; and one brother, Ed Knafel of Wabash.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Bette Meier and Viola Young; two brothers, Kenny Knafel and Harlan "Bud" Knafel; and a stepdaughter, Evelyn Fortman.

Funeral services and Masonic Lodge services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Young Family Funeral Home, Wolcottville Chapel, S.R. 9 North, Wolcottville, with the Rev. Carldean Merrifield officiating. Burial will be in Orange Cemetery near Rome City.

Calling will be from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Preferred memorials are to the family.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Everett Reinoehl

WATERLOO — Everett L. "Ezzie" Reinoehl, 73, of Waterloo died Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Reinoehl

Mr. Reinoehl was employed for the DeKalb County Highway Department for 27 years, retiring in 1999.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving from November of 1954 to December of 1956.

He was a member of the Auburn Church of Christ.

He was also a member of the American Legion Post 86 of Kendallville and was a volunteer for the World War II Victory Museum in Auburn.

He was born July 20, 1936, in DeKalb County to Charles and Mary (Benjamin) Reinoehl.

He married Carolyn Sue Skelly on March 16, 1957, at the Cedar Lake Church of Christ. She survives.

Also surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Jerry Wayne and Anna Reinoehl of Ashley, Charles Earl and Della Reinoehl of Battle Creek, Mich., and Alan Lee and Bertha Reinoehl of Union, Mich.; one brother and sister-in-law, Hubert and Virginia Reinoehl of Auburn; three sisters and a brother-in-law, Beth Drew of Waterloo, Alice Berry of Ashley and Nina and Ray Carter of Auburn; three brothers-in-law and their spouses, Eldon and Marlene Skelly, John and Lois Skelly and Donald "Butch" and Kathy Skelly; four sisters-in-law and a spouse, Ellen Wilson, Dianna Owen, Mildred Reinoehl and Debbie and Don Stilwell; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Gene Reinoehl; a sister, Minnie Provines; and brothers-in-law, Winfred Berry, Simon Drew, Bruce Provines, Steve Wilson, Steve Owen and Larry Skelly.

Services will be 11 a.m. Friday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Joseph Heins and Brian Wilcox officiating.

Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery in rural Corunna with graveside military rites being conducted by the Francis Vineyard Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2749 of Kendallville.

Pallbearers will be Jerry Reinoehl, Alan Reinoehl, Eldon Skelly, John Skelly, Donald Skelly, Hubert Reinoehl and Ray Carter.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Auburn Church of Christ, Lake James Christian Assembly or Marianne Badongen.

John Kratzman

ANGOLA — John A. Kratzman, 57, of Angola died Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009, in Angola.

Mr. Kratzman had been employed at Indiana Marine Products.

He was a member of Calvary Temple Pentecostal Church in Angola.

Mr. Kratzman was a U.S. Army veteran.

He was born June 21, 1952, in Fort Wayne to Raymond and Betty (Stewart) Kratzman. He married Lucinda "Susie" Cramp on Sept. 9, 2000. She survives in Angola.

Also surviving are two daughters, Kristina Kratzman of Fort Wayne and Megan Kratzman of Denver, Colo.; four brothers, Steavin and Marsha Kratzman of Angola, Tony and Brenda Kratzman of Auburn, Raymond and Leona Kratzman of Auburn and Joseph and Theresa Kratzman of Scottsburg, Ind.; two sisters, Ann Fousnaugh of Fort Wayne and Mary and Gary Ryan of Fort Wayne; and three grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Calvary Temple Pentecostal Church in Angola with Pastor Vincent Torres officiating.

Memorials are to the family of John Kratzman in care of Susie Kratzman.

Weicht Funeral Home in Angola is in charge of arrangements.

Hilda Boren

GARRETT — Hilda M. Boren, 90, of Garrett and formerly of Huntertown died Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009, at Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home in Garrett.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. Burial will follow in Huntertown Cemetery.

Calling will be one hour prior to services. Burial will follow in Huntertown Cemetery.

Donald Nelson

GARRETT — Donald D. Nelson, 88, of Garrett died Wednesday, September 9, 2009, at Parkview Hospital. Born June 22, 1921, in Butler, he was the son of the late Ernest and Edna Nelson.

Mr. Nelson

He was a WWII Navy veteran and had worked at Ball Brass and Aluminum Foundry for 20 years retiring in 1983.

He is survived by four daughters, Judy Day and Deanna Shafer, both of Garrett, and Sharon Mudd and Brenda Nelson, both of Shreveport, La.; a son, Donald G. Nelson of Auburn; sisters, Betty Pring of Tacoma, Wash., and Bev Stall of Kendallville; his grandchildren, Ronald Shover, Donald Shover, Laura Knox, Amy Baker, Melissa Geeting, Tammy Sumner, Charles Vasquez, Sabrina Nelson, Telicia Nelson, John Nelson and Rebecca Nelson; and 17 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Gene Nelson; and a sister, Jeanette Nelson.

Funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Calling will be today, Friday, Sept. 11, from 2-8 p.m. and one hour prior to the service at the funeral home Saturday.

Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery.

Memorials are to the family.

To sign the online guest book, or send a condolence, please visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

Charles Gingery

GARRETT — Charles R. Gingery, 47, of Garrett died at 4:41 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009, at his home.

He was born Feb. 23, 1962, in Garrett to Leon A. and Maxine (Herman) Gingery. He married Darla "Dee" Imbody on Jan. 5, 2004, in Auburn. She survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Tahsha Prater of Auburn; four sons, Charles Gingery Jr., Kaleb Gingery, Jerry Horn and James Morris, all of Garrett; three brothers, David Gingery of Garrett, Anthony Gingery of South Whitley and Michael Gingery of Michigan City; two sisters, Maria Lund, Vancouver, Wash., and Rosie Gingery of Gensure, Va.; and three grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers, Mark, Roger and Gerald Gingery.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m Monday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett with the Rev. William Haworth officiating. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery in Garrett.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family to assist with funeral expenses.

Send condolences to www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Wayne Hamman

AUBURN — Wayne L. Hamman, 89, of Auburn died Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009, at his home in Auburn.

He was the owner and manager of Dailey Motor Sales in Auburn for several years, retiring on April 11, 1985.

Mr. Hamman

He served in the U.S. Navy serving during World War II.

He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Auburn. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

He was born May 16, 1920, in Waterloo to Ralph J. and Doris O. (Collins) Hamman. He married Wava Dailey on July 7, 1941, in Auburn. She preceded him in death.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Warren and Sherry Hamman of Auburn; a brother and sister-in-law, Max and Doris Hamman of Waterloo; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and a stepmother-in-law, Freida Dailey of Auburn.

He was also preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Wilma Kerin.

Services will be 11 a.m. Monday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St, Auburn, with the Rev. Dale Williams officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery with graveside military rites being conducted by American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-5 p.m. on Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County Humane Society.

Marvin Stauffer

CHURUBUSCO — Marvin J. Stauffer, 67, a resident of Churubusco, died unexpectedly at 10:20 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 2009, at the family residence after collapsing from the results of an apparent heart attack.

Mr. Stauffer

Mr. Stauffer was born near Grabill on May 30, 1942, a son of Roy William and Lillian Amelia (Hollinger) Stauffer, and spent his formative years on the family farm there. On April 15, 1960, he was married to Lois A. Griggs and moved to Churubusco from Grabill in 1967. She preceded him in death on November 10, 1968.

He was the owner and operator of Marv's Paint Shop in Churubusco for 23 years, and retired in 2007 as a press operator for Federal Mogul in Avilla after 15 years. He had a natural aptitude for mechanics and for building things, and especially enjoyed John Deere farm equipment.

He attended the Broadway Christian Church in Fort Wayne.

He was married in Fort Wayne on December 20, 1986 to Linda (Hinkson) Scott. She survives.

Also surviving are his children, Billy Douglas Stauffer of Fort Wayne, Cheri ("Spider") Edgar of St. Joe, Chester Roy (Debbie) Stauffer of Churubusco, Colleen R. (Dan) Doberstein of South Whitley, Curtis W. (Dawn) Stauffer of Churubusco, Kristi N. (Doug) Tester of Huntertown, James Marvin Stauffer of Churubusco. John E. (Kari) Scott of New Haven and Donna (Reynold) Yordy of Thompson's Station, Tenn; and two brothers, DuWayne W. Stauffer of Spencerville and Larry A. (Linda) Stauffer of New Haven. There are 25 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents and his first wife, he was preceded in death by a brother, Kenneth Stauffer, and by a sister-in-law, Betty Stauffer.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday, September 14, 2009, at the Merriam Christian Chapel, 3985 South U.S. 33, Albion, with Pastor Robert F. Yawberg officiating.

The family will receive friends at the Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco on Sunday from 2 to 7 p.m. and at the church one hour prior to the service Monday morning.

Interment will be in the Eel River Cemetery, south of Churubusco.

For those who wish, memorials may be directed to the Broadway Christian Church, 901 Broadway, Fort Wayne, IN 46802.

To leave a condolence for the family in Mr. Stauffer's memory, log on to www.sheetsandchilds.net

Arthur Cobbs

AUBURN — Arthur J. Cobbs, 85, of Auburn died Friday, September 11, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor Duane Grady officiating.

Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery in rural Garrett with graveside military rites being conducted by the Francis Vineyard Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2749 of Kendallville.

Calling will be 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Cedar Lake Church of the Brethren.

THE EVENING STAR
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Houlton 'just liked people'

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

HAMILTON — Alice Houlton, more than anything, loved being around people.

Houlton, who worked as a neighborhood columnist for the Steuben Republican and other papers, died Saturday, Sept. 5, in Angola.

Houlton, who lived close to her entire 98 years in rural Hamilton, would make every effort to keep track of what was going on with her friends and neighbors, daughter Mary Lou Grisham said.

"Anything she could do to get her nose in," Grisham said. "She'd have people call her at all hours of the day, and she'd spend hours on the phone with them. She'd always be meeting and talking with the people she'd write about."

In addition to her newspaper work, Houlton also belonged to a number of civic groups, which Grisham said helped to keep her involved in the community. Houlton was a member of the Pythian Sisters for more than 50 years, where she'd held every office possible, as well as the DeKalb County Home Economics Club. "She enjoyed the social aspects of these things. She did a lot of these things just to socialize," Grisham said.

Her mother would also make trips to nursing homes in the area and to the county farm to cook meals, which was also a part of the home economics club's activities, Grisham said. Houlton also worked on collection boards and as a census taker. "She felt like it was a civic duty, but it also allowed her to go out and talk to more people," Grisham said.

Son Paul Houlton said he thought his mother's outgoing nature was a a result of wanting to show her faith.

"She loved Jesus and loved to be around people to share that faith," he said. "She knew everyone in about three counties, mainly through church and other community things she'd done. And she'd been around there forever."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Alice Houlton, foreground, was a friendly, outgoing person who was always sincerely interested in what and how others were doing. Her children are Mary Lou Grisham, Jerry Houlton and Paul Houlton.

Son Jerry Houlton said his mother "just liked people."

"She was just very interested what people were doing and the things they were up to," he said. "She'll be missed dearly.

Grisham said her mother and father, Claude Houlton, had a particular love for camping and the outdoors as well.

"My dad and his family all went camping before they were married, so when we were growing up we would always spend a lot of time around the different lakes in Steuben County. Later on, after they retired, they branched out, they'd go to Michigan and Kentucky." Grisham said her father got the whole family into fishing.

Grisham said her mother's love for the outdoors probably came from her 55 year marriage, but that she really did get into camping. "When the weekends came, as long as they could, they were gone," she said. "Even if it was just a normal two-day weekend, they'd go somewhere."

Matthew Fugate

GOSHEN — Matthew Robert Fugate, 9, died Friday, Sept. 11, 2009 at home. Matthew was born Oct. 8, 1999 in Fort Wayne to Adam Robert and Stacy Jo (Dickison) Fugate. He was a fourth grade student at Heritage Intermediate School in Middlebury, Indiana.

Matthew Fugate

Matthew loved to fish, go tubing, ride his bike, play games on his computer and was very artistic.

Surviving are his parents, Adam R. and Stacy Jo (Dickison) Fugate of Goshen; a brother, Andrew J. Fugate at home; maternal grandparents Bob and Nancy Dean of Angola and Steven E. and Robbi Dickison of Garrett, IN; paternal grandparents Cecil and Debbie J. Fugate of Hamilton, IN; maternal great-grandparents Robert and Norma Dickison of Garrett, IN, Rosemary J. Eberly of Fremont, IN and Loyce Dean of Montpelier, OH; paternal great-grandparents Robert and Norma Womack of Auburn, IN and Nora Black of Hamilton, IN.

Matthew was preceded in death by two maternal great-grandparents, Clifton D. Eberly and Frank Dean, and a paternal great-grandfather, Kenneth Black. Also surviving are many aunts,uncles and cousins.

Visitation for Matthew will be on Monday, Sept. 14, 2009 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home and Cremation Services at 108 S. West Street, Angola. Services will be on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009 at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Circle Hill Cemetery Angola.

Preferred memorials are to the family.

Friends may sign a guest register and send condolences to hejohnsonfh.com.

Arthur Cobbs

AUBURN — Arthur J. Cobbs, 85, of Auburn died Friday, September 11, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn

Mr. Cobbs was a truck driver for the Howard Sober Company in Fort Wayne, retiring in November of 1982. He was also a DeKalb County farmer. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army serving during World War II. He was a member of the Cedar Lake Church of the Brethren in rural Auburn. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 86 of Kendallville and the Teamsters Local 414.

He was born March 14, 1924, in Kendallville to Harley and Emma (DeBrian) Cobbs. He married Martha Eileen Biddle on Oct. 29, 1948, in the Cedar Lake parsonage, and she died Aug. 10, 2000.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Arthur Eugene and Marlene Cobbs of Chesterton, and Steven Brent Cobbs of Auburn; two daughters, Judy Kay Varnau of Bunker Hill, and Cathy Ann Cobbs of Kokomo; one brother and a sister-in-law, Carl and Pat Cobbs of Corunna; three sisters and a brother-in-law, Esther Andrus of St. George, Utah, Eleanor Fee of Waterloo, and Shirley and David Ely of Waterloo; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and four brothers, Cleo Cobbs, Jack Cobbs, Harley Cobbs Jr., and Delbert Cobbs.

Services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor Duane Grady officiating.

Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery in rural Garrett with graveside military rites being conducted by the Francis Vineyard Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2749 of Kendallville.

Calling will be 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Cedar Lake Church of the Brethren.

Marguerite Harter

ANGOLA — Marguerite M. Harter, 94, of Angola died Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009, at Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Harter was a clerk and seamstress at Harmon's Dress Shop and worked in the cafeteria at Angola High School. She was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church, Waterloo; the Angola Women of the Moose; and several bridge clubs. She loved her garden, especially her roses.

She was born April 27, 1915, in DeKalb County to Anthony Sr. and Margaret (Blomeke) Ellert. They preceded her in death. On June 22, 1946, she married Lewis Harter, who preceded her in death in 1983.

Surviving are a daughter, Patricia Harter of Angola; a granddaughter, Heather Harter of Orleans, Vt.; and a brother, Herman Ellert of Waterloo.

Also preceding her in death were a son, Donald Harter, in 2009; and four brothers, Augustine, Harold, Gilbert and Anthony Jr. Ellert.

A funeral Mass will be Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009, at 10 a.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Waterloo. Burial will be at St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery, Waterloo.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Tuesday at Weicht Funeral Home, Angola, with a rosary service there at 7:30 p.m.

Memorials are to St. Michael's Catholic Church.

Jones Parker

WATERLOO —Jones David Parker, 60, of Waterloo died on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett, with burial to follow in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Margaret Hazelton

KENDALLVILLE — Margaret Irene Hazelton, age 66, of Kendallville died on Sunday, September 13, 2009, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mrs. Hazelton was born in LaGrange County near South Milford on March 13, 1943, to the late Otho and Nellie Jane (Mosher) High.

Mrs. Hazelton

She graduated from Kendallville High School in May of 1962 and married Cecil Charles Hazelton on June 24, 1962, at the South Milford United Methodist Church.

Margaret was a homemaker and for much of her life she was a dedicated childcare giver.

She loved bowling and was a member of a women's team in the past.

Margaret enjoyed traveling around the country with Cecil, taking care of kids and working puzzle books.

She was a member of the South Milford United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women

Survivors include her husband, Cecil Hazelton of Kendallville; son, Phillip and Michele Hazelton of Kendallville; son, Paul Hazelton of Fort Wayne; grandson, Andrew Urick of Kendallville; sister, Agatha Stratton of Sturgis, Michigan; brother, Chester High and his wife, Kim Folden, of Garrett; a half brother, Wilbur High of Decatur, Illinois; and a brother-in-law, Cecil Wells of Garrett.

She was also preceded in death by a granddaughter, Allison Joy Hazelton; brothers, Elmer High and Gerald "Tuffy" High; and a sister, Helen Wells.

Visitation will be Wednesday, September 16, 2009, from 4-8 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St. in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Thursday, September 17, 2009, at 11 a.m. at Hite Funeral Home.

Officiating the funeral service will be the Rev. Barbara Cross.

Burial will be at South Milford Cemetery.

Preferred memorials may be made to American Diabetes Association.

View a video tribute by Wednesday or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Vickie McDonald

AUBURN — Vickie Lynn McDonald, 55, passed away after a long battle with cancer Sunday, September 14, 2009, at her home, surrounded by her family.

She worked at EMF Corporation of Hamilton for 32 years.

Mother Teresa said "Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier." To know Vickie is to be better and happier.

She was preceded in death by her father, Charles W. McDonald.

Surviving are her mother, Wava (Cox) McDonald; a brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Jackie McDonald; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Joan McDonald and Tonya and Brad Hennessey; Ronnie Smith whom she was the guardian of; her loving friend, Amanda Hentzell; two nieces, Elyse Ogbe and her husband, Mountala, and Tracie Rathburn; two nephews, Zane McDonald and Kyle Rathburn; a great-niece; and a great-nephew.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, September 17, 2009, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, Ind. Dan Wagner will officiate.

Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery, Corunna.

Calling will be Wednesday from 1 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks memorials be directed to Parkview Home Health and Hospice or Cancer Society of Northeastern Indiana.

Ruth Dailey

ANGOLA — Ruth Dailey died peacefully Sunday, September 13, 2009, following a lengthy illness.

She was born July 9, 1920, in Paulding County, Ohio, the daughter of Henry and Agnes (Trembley) Breidenbaugh.

Mrs. Dailey

Ruth grew up on a farm near Hicksville, Ohio, and on December 26, 1939, she married Keith Dailey.

She is survived by her husband, Keith; the couple's two children, Dale (Karen) Dailey and Bill (Sue) Dailey; and by one of her four siblings, Marie Dick.

She will always be "Grandma" to her six grandchildren, Aaron Dailey, Jennifer Dailey, Caleb Dailey, Ray Dailey, John Dailey and Michael Dailey. She was also blessed with nine great-grandchildren who brought her much joy.

Ruth will be remembered for her positive outlook on life, her love and support of family, her strong work ethic, her "get up and go" and her quiet strength. She left a positive imprint on all those who knew her.

A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Angola.

Interment will be in Riverside Cemetery in St. Joe, Ind.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m Wednesday and from 9-10 a.m. Thursday at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola.

Those wishing may make contributions to St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ruth's memory.

The family wishes to thank the many compassionate caregivers who assisted Ruth and the family during her illness.

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Clela Stayner

BUTLER — Clela May Stayner, 81, of Butler died Friday, Sept. 11, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

There will be no calling.

The Midwest Cremation Society and Memorial Chapel in Fort Wayne is in charge of arrangements.

Herman Collins

AUBURN — Herman L. Collins, 88, of Auburn died Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009, at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Collins worked for the Auburn Soft Water Co., House of Spirits and most recently for the ESI Security Co. at New Millennium Building Systems in Butler. He retired in 2008.

Mr. Collins

He was a member of the St. Mark Lutheran Church in St. Joe. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 97 of Auburn, Moose Lodge 566 of Auburn and the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Butler.

He served as DeKalb County Commissioner for four years. He also served on the Union Township Advisory Board and as Union Township Trustee.

He was born June 5, 1921, in St. Joe to Charles R. and Effie L. (Reasoner) Collins. He married Lois Strombeck on Feb. 14, 1996, in Auburn. She survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, David and Randy Collins of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Pennie and Tim Gitary of Auburn; two stepdaughters and a spouse, Claudia and Doug Winn of Auburn and Kay Brown of Billings, Mont.; a stepson and his companion, Kyle Strombeck and Debra Jo Storer of St. Joe; a sister, Ruby Tuttle of Auburn; a sister-in-law, Audra Collins of Fort Wayne; 10 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Ruth M. Collins who died on April 1, 1993; a son, Dennis Dale Collins; two brothers, Everett Collins and Dale Collins; and one great-grandson.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor Merle Holden officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 1-6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the St. Mark Lutheran Church in St. Joe.

Diana Dembickie

GARRETT — Diana M. Dembickie, 66, of Garrett died Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Mrs. Dembickie was a lifetime Garrett resident.

She had worked for the city of Garrett and at Lincoln Financial Group in Fort Wayne.

Surviving are a son, William E. Beverly and his wife, Lori; two grandchildren; and a sister, Anita York.

She was preceded in death by her parents,Edward J. and Marjorie E. (DePew) Johnson, and her husband, Thomas "Dimmer" Dembickie.

There will be no visitation or services.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online to www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

John Gould

PLEASANT LAKE — John F. Gould, 64, of Pleasant Lake died Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009, in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Gould had retired from Metaldyne in Fremont.

He was a member of the Amateur Trap Shooting Association, the Williams County Conservation Club and the Branch County Conservation Club.

He was born March 30, 1945, in Angola to Frederick and Lulu (McCord) Gould. He married Carol Hall on Oct. 16, 1987. She survives in Pleasant Lake.

Also surviving are three sons, Ronald A. and Cherry Gould of Indianapolis, Frederick W. and Kim Gould of Garrett and William J. and Heather Gould of Garrett; two stepsons, Jerry Lucas of Bryan, Ohio, and Eric and Beth Lucas of Doha, Qatar; two sisters, Arlene Stephens of Bronson, Mich., and Janet and Bill Goldner of Pleasant Lake; and 10 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Robert Gould and Lloyd Gould.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Sunday at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola with Kenny Binkley officiating. Burial will be in Jamestown Cemetery in Steuben County.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Vickie Rinehart

AUBURN — Vickie Lynn Rinehart, 55, of Auburn and formerly of California passed away peacefully on Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009, at Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

She was born Jan. 26, 1954, in Angola.

She was a graduate of DeKalb High School, class of 1972. She lived in California and was a graphic artist running her own Internet business since 1999.

She had a passion for the welfare of all animals.

Recently she moved back to Auburn to be near her family due to illness.

Survivors included her mother, Marjorie Winebrenner of Auburn; two sisters, Dr. Roberta Boyden and husband Tim of Eugene, Oregon, and Loretta Benner and husband Brad of Auburn; and one brother, Kelley Kelly and wife Tammy of Fort Wayne. Also surviving are two nieces and three nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Carleton Rinehart, who passed away in November of 2007.

There will be no visitation or services at this time.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County Humane Society.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home in Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

William Ogle Jr.

AUBURN — William David Ogle Jr., 87, of Auburn died Friday, Sept. 18, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Al Wingfield and Deacon Phil Rittner officiating. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Calling will be from noon to 2 p.m. on Monday prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County Habitat for Humanity Inc., 101 N. Main St., Auburn.

A full obituary will appear in Sunday's edition.

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Dr. Van Meter was 'blessing' to Noble County community

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — He was a friend to those in need — people and animals.

"I asked Doc Van Meter what he was most proud of during his lifetime," said Linda Yerick, executive director of the Noble County Community Foundation. "He said being able to make a good living by hard work and then years later being able to share that with so many organizations and people in need."

Noble County lost one of its most community-minded and former citizens this month.

David Van Meter Jr., D.V.M., 86, of New Haven, and formerly of Albion, died Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009, in the presence of his family at Fort Wayne Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home.

Dr. Van Meter was a mentor to Albion veterinarian Dr. Richard Carmien.

"As a new graduate joining Dr. Van Meter's practice, he welcomed me to town like his son," said Carmien. "I enjoyed many evening meals in the Van Meter household. He imparted his practice philosophy, his approach to dealing with people, his economic attitude, and his moral ideals."

Carmiem remembers Van Meter's community spirit. "He was loyal to his community and friends. Doc always traded practice vehicles every four years, and always traded through the dealership of his friend Ernie Leatherman. Other purchases were made locally when possible."

Van Meter graduated from Michigan State College of Veterinary Medicine where he later served on the Alumni Board. He practiced veterinary medicine from 1951-1993 in Kentucky, Wakarusa and Albion. He chaired the State Board of Animal Health for nine years, was named Veterinarian of the Year in 1981 and received the Sagamore of the Wabash in 1986.

He helped establish the Noble County Humane Society and served the society until his retirement. Longtime Noble County Humane Society member and officer Sue Abbs said Van Meter was always a phone call away and ready to help even after he moved to New Haven. "Dr. Van Meter had a calm, rational, caring but humble approach to life and his interaction with people," she said. "He was always willing to listen to the young and old. He shared his knowledge while striving to improve life in Noble County."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Dr. David and Alvena Van Meter, Jr.

Yerich remembers in the early 1990s when the idea of a new type of foundation called a community foundation came to light. Dr. Van Meter was one of the first Noble County leaders to step forward to help. "Doc was not afraid to ask the tough questions and was eager to share the story with others in the county about the Noble County Community Foundation," she said. "He was such an inspiration by being such a giving person." Dr. Van Meter gave of his time and his many talents by serving as a founding board member of the Noble County Community Foundation from 1991-1993.

Dr. Van Meter and his wife, Alvena, created the first charitable remainder unitrust through the foundation in 1993. That same year the Albion Rotary named a scholarship fund to honor the Van Meters.

In 2007, the community foundation created the Noble Legacy Society for those who plan to leave a gift and legacy through the foundation to the charity or fund of their choice. The Van Meters were the first members. Yerick recalls Dr. Van Meter remarking about their gift, "We thought it only proper to add to this fund through the community foundation and leave our legacy so some Central Noble students would have extra financial help to attend college of a trade school. These customers and clients in Noble County have helped put bread and butter on our table for 33 years, how could we not leave a legacy."

Dr. Van Meter served in many other organizations. He was a member of MSU President's Club, IVMA, Noble County Extension Committee, Albion Legion Post 246 and Albion Local Development Board.

He was a member of Aid Association for Lutherans and Lutheran Layman's League. He was an active member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Avilla and later Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne where he served as elder, Sunday School teacher and synodical representative.

Dr. Van Meter was a caring volunteer at Lutheran Life Villages in Kendallville for many years. He was instrumental in the transition from the Lutheran Home on Mitchell Street to the Shepherd of the Hill on Allen Chapel Road now known as Lutheran Life Villages. "He often told the story of helping to physically move residents and possessions to the new home," stated Lorraine Seidel, treasurer of the Lutheran Life Villages Ladies Auxiliary.

"Doc" and his wife chaired the committee that organized the fundraiser at the Shepherd of the Hill known as the Extravaganza Garage Sale. He was responsible for raising funds to finish the Good Shepherd Chapel at Lutheran Life Villages. "He was a blessing to the residents and gave tirelessly to them," stated Seidel.

Blessing is the appropriate word to describe Dr. Van Meter. "His parting comment was always bless you," said Abbs. "We were truly blessed knowing him."

Dr. Van Meter is survived by his wife of 63 years, Alvena (Kanning) Van Meter; four daughters and sons-in-law; Suzanne and Jack Sprague, Fremont, Jenny and Paul Christensen, Camarillo, Calif., Sherri and Jim Buchmeier, New Haven; and Lori and Jeff Dillinger, Brownsburg; six grandchildren; four step grandchildren; seven step-step grandchildren; a sister, Delores Lepper, Monroeville; a sister-in-law, Doric Van Meter, New Haven; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was buried in Concordia Cemetery Gardens, Fort Wayne.

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William Ogle

AUBURN — William David Ogle, Jr., 87, of Auburn died Friday, Sept. 18, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Ogle retired from Crouse Hinds Inc. in Syracuse, N.Y., where he worked as a mechanic engineer.

He was a World War II veteran of the U.S. Army serving as a Staff Sergeant from June 28, 1941 to Oct. 27, 1945.

He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from the Indiana Institute of Technology.

He was a life member of the Masonic Lodge. He was also a Boy Scout leader for many years. While he was living in Lake Waccamaw, N.C., he volunteered his time building ramps for the disabled.

He was born Nov. 21, 1921, in Union Bridge, Md., to William David Ogle, Sr., and Martha Ellen (Fogle) Ogle.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Olen Surface of Huntertown; two grandsons and a spouse, Benjamin Robert Clapp of New Mexico, and Joseph David and Rique Clapp of Angola; one great grandson, Christian Clapp; and two sisters, Mary Ellen Ogle of Union Bridge, Md., and Lydia Ibex of Westminster, Md.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Joyce Ogle; and a brother, Charles Ogle.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Rev. Al Wingfield and Deacon Phil Rittner officiating. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Calling will be noon-2 p.m. Monday prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County Habitat for Humanity Inc., 101 N. Main St., Auburn.

Mark Wilmes

FORT WAYNE — Mark Allen Wilmes, 26, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Auburn died Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009, in LaGrange from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Mr. Wilmes

He was born Feb. 18, 1983, in Auburn to Allen R. and Becky A. (Stark) Wilmes. They survive in Auburn.

He was currently working for Fort Wayne Metals.

He was in his senior year at IPFW working towards a degree in mechanical engineering.

He was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn.

He was a 2001 graduate of DeKalb High School. While in high school, he played football and baseball for the Barons.

He enjoyed golfing, friends, and especially his family.

Surviving are a sister and brother-in-law, Katrina and Christopher Koehler of Auburn; maternal grandmother, Helen Stark; a uncle and his spouse, Art and Anne Wilmes of Indianapolis; a aunt and her spouse, Betty and Mike Verkamp of Jasper; and cousins, Katie and Mary Wilmes, and Daniel, Will, and Sarah Verkamp.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Jack Stark; and paternal grandparents, Clarence and Emma Wilmes.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with Father Derrick Sneyd officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Tuesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with a rosary recited at 4:30 p.m.

Memorials may be directed to the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church or Masses.

Norbert May

WATERLOO — Norbert May, 87, of Waterloo died Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Services will be 11 a.m. Thursday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with Father Derrick Sneyd officiating. Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 5-8 p.m. Wednesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and one hour prior to the funeral service Thursday at the church. A rosary will be recited at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday prior to visitation at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church youth group.

Norbert May

WATERLOO — Norbert May, 87, of Waterloo died Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. May was a machinist at Warner Gear in Auburn for 30 years, retiring in 1976. He then worked for Gibson's Heating and Plumbing for 17 years.

He was a World War II veteran of the U.S. Army serving in Company K of the 120th Infantry in the 30th Division. He landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day plus 3. He was wounded in service and received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

Mr. May was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn.

He was a founding member of the Waterloo Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 467 of Hamilton.

He was born Feb. 19, 1922, in DeKalb County to John and Mary (Dapp) May.

He married Cordelia L. "Corky" May on Feb. 19, 1946, at St. Michael's in Waterloo. She preceded him in death on July 10, 2009.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Steven and Della May of Hopkinsville, Ky., and Timothy and Dori May of Maryville, Tenn.; three grandchildren, Lauren and Joshua Ziolkowski, Andrea May and Aaron May; one great-grandchild, Evan Ziolkowski; two stepgrandsons, Christopher Hansley and Merrill HansleyJr.; one sister, Veronica Schlosser of Avilla; and two brothers, Edward May of Waterloo and Otto May of Batesville.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; two sisters, Agnes Hollis and Esther Nestle; and one brother, Albert May.

A Mass of Christian burial will be 11 a.m. Thursday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with Father Derrick Sneyd officiating. Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery in Auburn, with graveside military rites being conducted by the American Legion Post 467 of Hamilton.

Calling will be from 5-8 p.m. Wednesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and one hour prior to the funeral service Thursday at the church. A rosary will be recited at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday prior to visitation at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church youth group.

Charles Clark

LOGANSPORT — Charles B. Clark, age 90, of Logansport, passed away Saturday, September 19, 2009, at Logansport Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Clark was born May 5, 1919, at Friendswood, Ind., to Charles Augusta Clark and Frances Ingles Ringo Clark Hylton. They both preceded him in death. A half brother, John Clark, also preceded him in death.

Mr. Clark married Erma Dean Shumaker on December 6, 1939, at Martinsville, Ind. She survives. He is also survived by his daughter, Barbara Clark Smith and son-in-law, John Martin Smith, of Auburn, Ind.; and grandsons, Creager Smith (Joan) of Fort Wayne, Ind., Thompson Smith (Jama) and Patrick Smith (Mary) of Auburn, Ind. He is also survived by six great-grandchildren, Kathleen and Leah Smith of Fort Wayne, and Conner Smith, Caleb Smith, Kendyl Smith and Kaitlyn Smith of Auburn, Ind.

Mr. Clark attended school in Plainfield, Ind., for 10 years, but graduated from Mooresville High School in 1937. He graduated from the Indiana Business College and was also a business graduate of LaSalle University.

Mr. Clark was a retired business executive. During World War II he was employed at the Curtis Wright defense plant and later at Stewart-Warner in Indianapolis. Later he was employed by Essex Wire at RBM in Logansport. In 1968, he and several partners established Logan Stampings Inc. Mr. Clark later gained controlling interest, and sold the firm in 1981.

Mr. Clark served as financial officer of the Whitney Beach Association at Longboat Key, Fla., for several years, and as its president for three years.

Mr. Clark was a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and was a 32nd Degree Mason with membership in the Mooresville Lodge Number 78 Free and Accepted Masons since 1941; Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite N.M.J. Valley of Indianapolis since 1943; Logansport Shrine Club; and Murat Temple of Indianapolis, IN. He was also a member of Logansport Elks Lodge Number 66.

Mr. Clark was fond of music and played a cornet in his high school and the Mooresville Community Band. He liked to talk about playing in the marching band at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway prior to Indianapolis 500 mile races.

Mr. Clark was an avid golfer and fisherman. He was a devoted Chicago Cubs fan and was waiting for the Cubs to win the World Series at the time of his death.

Services will be at Kroeger Funeral Home, 711 E. Market St., Logansport, Ind., on Wednesday, September 23 at 1 p.m., with calling one hour prior to services.

Friends may call Tuesday from 4-8 p.m. with an Elks memorial service at 6:30 p.m., Masonic service at 7 p.m. and Shriners walk-by immediately following. Interment will be at a later date at Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn, Ind.

Memorials may be directed to Shriners Hospitals for Children or Riley Children's Hospital.

Condolences and personal remembrances may be left online at www.kroegerfuneralhome.com.

THE EVENING STAR
Septembe: 23 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Larry Custer

GARRETT — Larry E. Custer, 65, of Garrett died on Monday, Sept. 21, 2009, at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Custer was a forklift operator at B.F. Goodrich in Woodburn for 30 years before retiring in 1999.

He was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps having served during the Vietnam War.

Mr. Custer was a member of the Garrett American Legion, VFW and Garrett Eagles.

He was born March 6, 1944, in Auburn to Gregory and Maxine (Thompson) Custer. He married Deborah L. Nelson on Oct. 11, 1995, in Auburn. She survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are his mother, Maxine Custer of Garrett; three sons, Larry Stuckey of Fort Wayne, Anthony Custer of Fort Wayne and LeRoy Custer of Las Vegas, Nev.; three stepchildren, Angie, Keith and Mark Cowell all of Angola; two grandchildren; a brother, Dan Custer of Florida; and a sister, Connie Custer of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by his father; a brother, Greg Custer; and two sisters, Sharon and Bonnie Custer.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday at 3 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, with the Rev. H. Dean Morris of the Living Waters Community Church officiating.

Calling will be from 1-3 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Gideon Bibles or the family for funeral expenses.

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook visit www.thomasfunealhome.org

Brady Pippenger

ALBION — Brady Pippenger was stillborn Friday, Sept. 18, 2009, at Dupont Hospital in Fort Wayne to Aaron Lynn and Michelle Leigh (Rupley) Pippenger of rural Albion.

He is also survived by his grandparents, George and Marily Pippenger of Albion and James and Lynn Rupley of Corunna; and his great-grandparents, Milton and Roberta Rupley of South Whitley and Paul Besson of Warsaw.

There will be no services or calling.

Sheets and Childs Funeral Home of Churubusco is in charge of arrangements.

Send online condolences to www.sheetsandchilds.net.

Harris Hoeffel Jr.

GARRETT — Harris H. "Punk" Hoeffel Jr., 59, of Garrett, died Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2009, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

A Mass of Christian Resurrection will be held Saturday at Saint Joseph Catholic Church, 300 W. Houston St., Garrett.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Memorials are to the National Kidney Foundation.

To sign the guest book or to send a condolence, visit pinnington-mccomb.com.

Charles Clark

LOGANSPORT — Charles B. Clark, 90, of Logansport died Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009, at Logansport Memorial Hospital.

A graveside service will take place at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009, at Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn, with Dr. Robert Craig officiating.

Memorials may be directed to Shriners Hospitals for Children or Riley Children's Hospital.

Local funeral arrangements are being handled by Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn.

Harris Hoeffel Jr.

GARRETT — Harris H. "Punk" Hoeffel Jr., 59, of Garrett, died Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2009, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

He was born Feb. 27, 1950, in Garrett. He was employed as a meat cutter for Hoeffel's Meats in Garrett.

Mr. Hoeffel Jr.

He was a member of Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett and a 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus.

Surviving are one son and daughter-in-law, Gregg and Marcia Hoeffel of Garrett; his parents, Harris and Ann Hoeffel of Auburn; a grandson, Jude Hoeffel of Garrett; three brothers, Matt Hoeffel of Auburn, Nate Hoeffel of Fort Wayne and Chris Hoeffel of Garrett; and four sisters, Cande Bishop of Garrett, Holly Custer of Garrett, Deb Saylor of Garrett and Mary Hoeffel of Garrett.

A Mass of Christian Resurrection will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, at Saint Joseph Catholic Church, 300 W. Houston St., Garrett.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today, Friday, Sept. 25, at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Memorials are to the National Kidney Foundation.

To sign the guest book or to send a condolence, visit pinnington-mccomb.com.

Gene Mann

AUBURN — Gene W. Mann, 76, of Auburn died Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Mann retired from International Harvester/Navistar after more than 30 years of service.

Mr. Mann

He was a veteran of the United States Air Force.

Mr. Mann was a member of the Auburn Baptist Church.

He was born Sept. 25, 1932, in Auburn to Roy and Margurite (Koch) Mann. He married Patsy Angel on Feb. 21, 1986, in Angola. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two sons, Douglas Mann and David Mann; a stepdaughter, Kim M. Vendrely; a brother, Jack Mann; a sister, Betty Jones; and six grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Donald Mann.

There will be no calling or services at this time.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Mason Daniels

BUTLER — Infant Mason Glen Daniels, son of Matthew and Amy Daniels of Butler, died Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2009, at Hicksville Community Hospital in Hicksville, Ohio.

There are no services.

Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services in Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Send online condolences to www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

Lonny White

FORT WAYNE — Lonny K. White, 58, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Portsmouth, Ohio, died Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2009, at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne.

There will be no calling or services at this time.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home in Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Collins loved to help people

Served four years as DeKalb commissioner

BY JENNY KOBIELA-MONDOR
jennyk@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Former DeKalb County Commissioner Herman Collins spent most of his life helping people — both as an elected official and as a friend.

Collins died Sept. 16 at the age of 88.

"I know my father always liked to do things for other people," said his son, David. "He was a service-oriented-type person."

"Herman was very conciensious of the needs of the people and was always desirous of the needs of the people," said Frank Laub, who served with Herman Collins as a county commissioner from 1968 to 1970. Collins was a commissioner from 1966 to 1970.

Laub remembers that Collins was elected with a large vote on the east side of the county, where he lived.

"I think that is a tribute when you run especially good in elections with your home vote," Laub said.

David Collins remembers his father helping a family from the Canary Islands while he was a county commissioner.

"He helped them get citizenship so they could stay here," Collins said. "It's a pretty big thing. Back in the '60s you didn't hear too many people doing that."

Collins said he always asked his father why he was always helping people.

"It just gave him satisfaction to help people. That's what he was all about," Collins said.

One of the biggest issues Herman Collins and the other commissioners worked on during Collins' term was getting EMS service in place at the hospital, Laub recalls.

"I'm not sure that that was completely accomplished during Herman's term or not, but I think it was, and if it wasn't it was dealt with and worked with at that time," he said. "Before that, the ambulance service was provided by undertakers, which was not a very desirable way to have it. That would be one big step that was made at that time."

In addition to serving as a county commissioner, Herman Collins also served on the Union Township Advisory Board and as Union Township Trustee. He worked for the Auburn Soft Water Co., House of Spirits, and the ESI Security Co. working at New Millennium Building Systems in Butler. He also was a member of St. Mark Lutheran Church in St. Joe, Moose Lodge 566 of Auburn, the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Butler and American Legion Post 97 in Auburn.

David Collins said his father got into the American Legion through the Sons of the American Legion. He was not a veteran, but his father, Charles, was.

"My dad had flat feet," David Collins said. "At that time, my grandfather was very gravely ill and they needed him at home to help take care of the family."

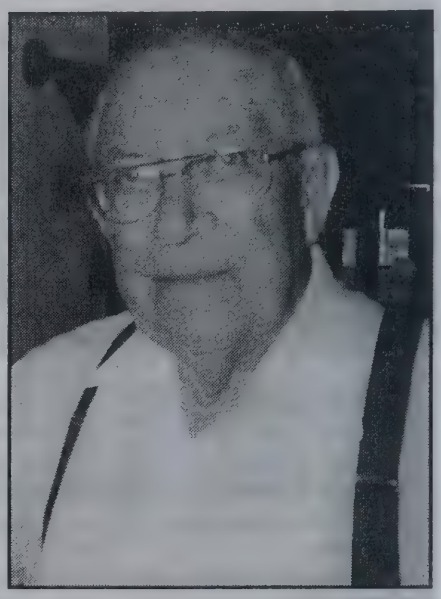


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Herman Collins

Collins said that what he best remembers about his father was how well-liked he was by a wide range of people. Even at his funeral, he was struck by how many people from different age groups knew and liked Herman Collins.

David Collins said one family approached him and told him that they always told Herman Collins that "if they could, they would give him the world, because they felt that much about him." Instead, the family got a star named after him.

"It touched me that they would think that much about him to do that. He was just liked by a lot of people," David Collins said. "He helped a lot of people. He was just a good all-around guy. Just a nice person."

Services are Wednesday for J. Bradley Fox of Rome City

ROME CITY — Former State Rep. J. Bradley Fox, 57, of Rome City, died peacefully with his family by his side on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009, at his residence in Rome City.

Mr. Fox

Mr. Fox was born in LaGrange on March 9, 1952, to the late Brent L. Fox, Jr. and Janet (Greene) Fox. His father preceded his death in 1993, and his mother in 1994.

Brad graduated from East Noble High School in 1970 and attended International Business College and I.P.F.W., both in Fort Wayne. Shortly after graduating high school, he married Paula Marie Kline on June 13, 1970, in Rome City.

Brad served northeast Indiana for six terms as a Republican in the Indiana State House from 1980-1992. He retired in 1992 due, in part, to his employment commitment at J.O. Mory. During his tenure as representative, he was employed with J.O. Mory and Reith-Riley Construction as sales and office manager. He went on to currently serve as a lobbyist and legislative consultant at the state legislature for about the past eight years.

Brad loved family gatherings and hosting pool parties at his home. He enjoyed being outdoors, sitting around the campfire with his family and friends, deer hunting and NASCAR racing.

Survivors include his wife, Paula Fox of Rome City; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Jay and Melissa Fox of Macclenny, Fla., and Kyle Fox and his companion, Stacey Gillespie, both of Rome City; five grandchildren, Logan, Madison, Tyler, Macey and Samantha Fox; a sister and brother-in-law, Ann and Stan Fraze of Fort Wayne and two brothers, and a sister-in-law, Barry Fox of Elkhart and Patrick and Karen Fox of Rome City; and a sister-in-law, Mary Jo Fox of Flower Mound, Texas.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Brent L. Fox III, who died Sept. 17, 2007, and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

Visitation will be Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2009, from 3-8 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home, 403 South Main St., Kendallville. Services will be Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2009, at 11 a.m. at the funeral home with Pastor Michael McKinney officiating. Burial will be at Orange Cemetery near Rome City. Casketbearers will be Camden Fox, Logan Fox, Zach Fraze, Brent Fox, Larry Slusher, Kim Miller, Steve Kline, Michael Kline. Honorary Bearers will be Mike Kline, Rick Frick, and Bob Pruitt.

Preferred memorials may be made to Rome City United Methodist Church or the Orange Township Volunteer Fire Department.

To view a video tribute by Tuesday or send condolences to the family, go to www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Nicholas McCoy

COLUMBIA CITY — Nicholas Scott McCoy, 41, of Kendallville and formerly of Columbia City, passed away at 8:10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25, 2009, at his residence.

Mr. McCoy

He was born on Jan. 13, 1968, in Columbia City, the son of Jack LeRoy McCoy and Joan Pamela Pettigrew.

Nick spent his lifetime in the Kendallville and Noble County areas, graduating from East Noble High School with the Class of 1987, where he excelled in cross country, basketball and track.

He was employed first at Albion Wire for 13 years, owned and operated Prestige Carpet Care and currently was employed with Kraft Foods, Kendallville, in the production department.

Survivors include his two children, Ariel J. and Justin S. McCoy, both of Garrett; father and stepmother, Jack and Susan McCoy of Columbia City; companion, Jamye A. Haynes of Kendallville; maternal grandmother, Wanda Beeching, and paternal grandmother, Edna McCoy, both of Columbia City; three sisters and a brother-in-law, Gwen L. Stockert of Kendallville, Liv L. and Josh Van Gessel of Avilla and Charity McCoy of Fort Wayne; three brothers, Tim L., Jackford and Quimby J. McCoy, all of Columbia City; and three stepsisters, Wendy Johnson of Mechanicsville, Va., Heidi Schuman of Phoenix, Ariz., and Trudy McCormick of Freeland.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Joan Pamela Pettigrew-Linnemeier who passed away on Sept. 11, 1987, and three grandfathers, Ford McCoy, Alverl O. Pettigrew and Fred Beeching.

Visitation will be Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2009, from 3-8 p.m. at DeMoney-Grimes Countryside Park Funeral Home, 600 Countryside Drive, Columbia City. Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2009, at the funeral home with Pastor Thomas Dunbar of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Avilla, officiating. Burial will follow at Greenhill Cemetery, Columbia City.

Memorial bequests may be given in Nick's memory to donor's choice. Envelopes will be available through the funeral home. You may log onto www.demoneygrimes.com to sign the guestbook and leave a condolence.

Paul Nichols

LORIDA, Fla. — Paul Lee Nichols, 75, of Lorida and formerly of Kendallville died Aug. 1, 2009, in Lorida.

Paul had been a sales administrator at McCray Refrigeration in Kendallville until it closed and then retired in 1995 from Mossburg Hubbard in Garrett.

Mr. Nichols

He built a retirement home in Lorida and he and his wife moved to Florida in 1996.

Paul grew up in the Helmer area and graduated in 1952 from Salem Center High School.

He enjoyed hunting game, fishing, golfing and auto racing. Following his retirement, he enjoyed hunting alligators with his sons.

Paul especially enjoyed flower gardening, landscaping and spending time with his pet cat.

He was born April 21, 1934, in LaGrange County to H. Ralph and Helen (Ball) Nichols. He married Geraldine R. Deller on Nov. 1, 1952, in Hudson. She survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Teresa K. Campbell of Kendallville; two sons, Roger L. Nichols of Kendallville and Gary L. Nichols of Lorida; a sister, Rosemary Shearer of Hudson; a granddaughter, Sabrina K. Crager of Fort Wayne; and two great-grandchildren, Brittany E. Wyatt and Ethan B. Wyatt, both of Avilla.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Arlene Huffman and Carol Starrett; and three brothers, Philip, Ronald and Donald.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Oct. 3, at 11 a.m. at the Independent Baptist Church on S.R. 3 in South Milford with Pastor Earl Bolen officiating. Burial will be in Wright Cemetery southeast of Stroh on Turkey Creek Road.

Calling will be 45 minutes prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are to Independent Baptist Church in South Milford or the Humane Society of Noble County.

The family is grateful to Brian DeCamp of Hite Funeral Home of Kendallville for his assistance.

Adam Myers

WATERLOO — Adam L. Myers, 25, of Waterloo died Sunday, Sept. 27, 2009, at his home.

He was born June 8, 1984, in Auburn.

He is survived by his father, Todd Myers of Waterloo; his mother and stepfather, Kathy and Jody Kessler of Auburn; a sister, Stephanie Stark of Sturgis, Mich.; two brothers, Aaron Myers of Waterloo and Andrew of Auburn; and his grandparents, Lloyd Myers of Auburn and Helen and Garth Gillespie of Garrett.

Mr. Myers

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Carol Myers.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

To sign the guest book or to leave an online condolence, please visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

Ross Myers

AUBURN — Ross E. Myers, 76, of Auburn died Sunday, Sept. 27, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Myers was the owner and operator of Myers Real Estate in Auburn for five years. He then moved to California where he was in motor home sales until his retirement.

He was a veteran of the United States Army serving from June 22, 1953, to March 29, 1955.

He was a member of the Zion 16 Lutheran Church in Corunna. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 97 of Auburn and the Elks Lodge of Auburn.

He was born June 13, 1933, in Fairfield Township to Vern and Edna (Leins) Myers. He married JoAnn M. Felber on Feb. 28, 1975. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Joe and Virginia Felber of Goose Creek, S.C, and Van Jr. and Vicki Felber of Newman, Calif.; one sister, Rose Ellen Hudson of Auburn; eight grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Dallas Myers and Wilbur Myers; and one sister, Wavah DeMarais.

A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor John Stuck officiating.

Calling will be one hour prior to the service.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Harvey Steinbacher

ALBION — Harvey John Steinbacher, 87, of Betz Nursing Home, Auburn, formerly of Albion, died Sunday, Sept. 27, 2009, following an extended illness.

There are no services or calling.

Memorials are to the Noble County Humane Society.

Sheets and Childs Funeral, Churubusco, is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online at www.sheetsandchilds.net.

Mary Atkins

GARRETT — Mary J. Atkins, 93, of Garrett died Sunday, Sept. 27, 2009, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Mrs. Atkins

She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church.

She was born Sept. 9, 1916, in Avilla, the daughter of the Henry and Rena Hess. She married Charles Atkins Sept. 9, 1937, in Avilla.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Janet and Eston Hathaway of Indianapolis; her grandchildren, Susan Ginger of Kendallville, Joel Hathaway of Fort Wayne and Mark McCrory of Fort Wayne; eight great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Atkins; a daughter, Charlotte McCrory; and brothers, Richard and Roger Hess.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery.

Memorials are to Trinity Lutheran Church.

To sign the guest book or to leave a condolence, please visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

Jean Martin

CLAWSON, Mich. — Jean Ellen Martin, 81, of Clawson and formerly of Royal Oak, Mich., and Fort Wayne, Ind., died Sept. 27, 2009, at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

Mrs. Martin

Mrs. Martin was born in Detroit on January 25, 1928, to Charles and Marion Coulter.

Mrs. Martin loved dogs, especially the Lhasa Apso breed. Her last pet was named Max.

Mrs. Martin was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Royal Oak and Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn, Ind.

She will be remembered best as a devoted and loving mother.

Mrs. Martin is survived by her loving children, Susan (William) Becker, Donald T. (Paula) Martin Jr., Julie (Timothy) McGee, Beatrice (August) Imm, Douglas Martin, Kenneth (Kellen) Martin, Jim (Beth) Martin, and Joan (Rick) Wilson; 18 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her beloved husband, CWO Donald T. Martin, and their baby boy, Martin, and her dear sister, Grace Somerville.

Funeral services will be at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 202 E. 5th St., Royal Oak, on Wednesday at 11 a.m. Friends may visit at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 1368 N. Crooks Road (between 14-15 Mile Roads) from 2-8 p.m. today, Tuesday, September 29.

Mrs. Martin will be buried next to her late husband, Donald, in Waterloo Cemetery, Waterloo, Indiana. Graveside services will be at noon Thursday, Oct. 1, with Pastor Lloyd Bickel officiating.

THE EVENING STAR
October 1 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Auburn man dies in crash

Two passengers hurt north of Ashley

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

ASHLEY — One person is dead and two injured following a crash outside Ashley at about 11 a.m. Wednesday.

Steuben County Sheriff's deputies said the driver of the vehicle, David M. Aschleman, 67, Auburn, died at the scene of the wreck at 6530 S. C.R. 400W.

Aschleman was driving a red pickup southbound when he possibly suffered from some sort of medical issue and likely lost consciousness, officers said.

The vehicle left the road on the east side, hitting a mailbox before colliding with a utility pole, which was split due to the impact of the crash. The vehicle

SEE **CRASH**, PAGE A8

JIM SHILANDER

After apparently suffering from a medical issue, a driver careened off a road and struck a telephone pole near Ashley Wednesday morning. The driver, David M. Aschleman, 67, Auburn, was pronounced dead at the scene, though police said he may have died before the crash. Two passengers had minor injuries and were taken to Cameron Memorial Community Hospital.

CRASH: *Passengers taken to Cameron hospital*

FROM PAGE A1

flipped onto its side.

The driver was pronounced dead at the scene by Steuben County Coroner Rodney Snyder.

The two passengers in the vehicle, Thomas L. Aschleman, 58, and Raymond Aschleman, 93, both of Auburn, were taken to Cameron Memorial Community Hospital for complaints of chest pain.

Thomas Aschleman was listed in stable but serious condition at Cameron Wednesday. Raymond Aschleman was transferred to Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne and was listed in fair condition Wednesday night.

The accident took place in homeowner Elisabeth McHugh's front yard. She said she looked out her window and saw her mailbox flying through the air.

"I didn't really hear the impact," McHugh said. She only realized what happened, she said, when she saw police gathering in front of her home, and after a neighbor on the other side of the street had called.

The crash is still under investigation by the sheriff's department and Snyder.

Leslie Ebert

WATERLOO — Leslie Wayne "Pee Wee" Ebert, 60, of Waterloo died Tuesday, September 29, 2009, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mr. Ebert was born August 10, 1949, in Howard County, Indiana.

He worked for the Dana Corporation/Eaton Corporation for 35 years, retiring in 2007.

Mr. Ebert

He was a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps, serving during the Vietnam War. He was also a recipient of the Purple Heart.

He was a member of the Jay Street Church of God in Kokomo. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 97 of Auburn, the local United Auto Workers Union, and the Howard County Vietnam Veterans Organization.

He married Nancy S. Flagg on March 12, 1972, in Peru. She survives in Waterloo.

Also surviving is a son, John W. Ebert of Bishopville, S.C.; a daughter, Stacey S. Ebert of Waterloo; two grandchildren, Kaeden Thomas and Xavier Thomas; one brother and sister-in-law, Keith and Donna Ebert of Galveston; a sister-in-law and her husband, Cindy and Mike Taylor of Peru; and five nephews.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Steve Evans officiating.

Burial will take place in the Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn with military graveside services being conducted by the United States Marine Corps and the American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

Calling will be one hour prior to the funeral service.

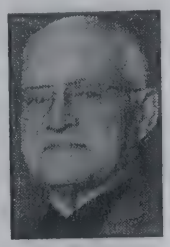
Memorials may be directed to the American Cancer Society.

David Aschleman

AUBURN — David M. Aschleman, 66, of Auburn died Wednesday, September 30, 2009, in Ashley.

Mr. Aschleman worked for the Dana Corp./Eaton Corp. for 30 years, retiring in 1999. He was also a DeKalb County farmer.

He served in the United States National Guard from 1964 to 1970.


Mr. Aschleman

He was born on December 25, 1942, in DeKalb County to Raymond and Luella (Brown) Aschleman. They survive in Auburn.

He married Virginia Baughman on January 9, 1965, in Corunna. She survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Dawn Aschleman of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Vicky and Brad Babbitt of Auburn; three grandchildren, Jack David Aschleman, Emilie Ann Aschleman and Tyler Babbitt, all of Auburn; two brothers, Tom Aschleman of Auburn and Tim Aschleman of Auburn; and one sister, Sandra Aschleman of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Robert Aschleman.

A service for family and close friends will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor Duane Grady officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-5 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to Camp Riley in care of Riley Children's Foundation.

Herman Jensen

GARRETT — Herman W. Jensen, 92, of Garrett died on Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2009, at Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home in Garrett.

Mr. Jensen was a conductor on CSX Railroad for 41 years before retiring in 1982.

He was a member of the Garrett United Methodist Church, Garrett Masonic City Lodge No. 537 and Fort Wayne Scottish Rite.

Mr. Jensen

He was born April 18, 1917, in Syracuse to Ladene and Ida (Kitson) Jensen. He married Betty E. Holloway on Dec. 31, 1939, in Fort Wayne.

He is survived by his wife, Betty E. Jensen of Garrett; two daughters, Karen (Lee) Johnson of Angola and Kim (Bill) Schaab of Auburn; a son, Michael (Bobbie) Jensen of Fort Wayne; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Mary Lower.

Calling will be held from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Sunday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett, with a Masonic service at 7:30 p.m.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at the funeral home, with funeral celebrant Ryan Myers officiating. Burial will follow in Syracuse Cemetery in Syracuse.

Memorials are to the Garrett United Methodist Church or DeKalb Memorial Hospice

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org

Kevin Snook

GARRETT — Kevin J. Snook, 51, of Garrett, died on Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2009, at Wesley Healthcare in Auburn.

Mr. Snook was a bartender at Martin's Tavern in Garrett.

He was a member of the Garrett Eagles.

He was born Aug. 24, 1958, in Garrett to Gerry G. and Mary Jane (Shuff) Snook. He married Patty Conn on July 12, 1996.

He is survived by his wife, Patty Snook of Garrett; his father, Gerry Snook of Garrett; a stepdaughter, Deadra Hays of Garrett; two brothers, Steven Snook of Garrett and Timothy (Christy) Snook of Garrett; a sister, Sharon (Mack) Short of Auburn; and two stepgrandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his mother; a brother, Michael Snook; and a sister, Patrish Snook.

There will be a gathering for family and friends on Saturday from 5-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett.

Memorials are to the family c/o Thomas Funeral Home to assist with expenses.

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org

Vickie Rinehart

AUBURN — Vickie Lynn Rinehart, 55, of Auburn died Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009.

A memorial service will be 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn.

THE EVENING STAR
October 2009 Auburn, Indiana
4

Cary was passionate about comrades

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — When Robert Cary returned to Angola after serving in the Pacific during World War II, he began a life of service to his community and his fellow veterans.

Cary, who spent 30 years with the Angola Post Office after returning from the war, and served as a commander of the Angola American Legion Post No. 31, died last Sunday, Sept. 27, at his home in Angola.

"He was a member of nearly every service organization in the area," son Kevin Cary said. "He was a very service oriented person. Being brought up during the Depression would do that to a person."

Cary was especially involved with the American Legion and other veterans organizations. Morrie Whitlock, a Legion member for nearly 60 years, came into the group with Cary at about the same time.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Robert Cary, left, was "Mr. Legion," to his comrades in the Angola American Legion Post No. 31. Cary served in the Army during World War II, then became a postman in Angola. He and his family would take many trips to NASCAR races in his later years.

"He was very active right from the start. He was Mr. Legion," Whitlock said. "He did it because of his love for his fellow Legionnaires. He was into everything that would support his comrades."

Legion member Jim Tinpe said Cary would often say that he "bled Legion blue."

"I don't think he's missed three or four district meetings in all his time here," Tinpe said

Cary served in nearly every officer capacity with the Legion, including serving as post commander in 1954-55. He was also a member of the national Forty & Eight, an elite Legion honor society formed in 1920. He served as Chef de Gare, the commander for the state chapter.

"He traveled around the state extensively while he was Chef, and he made it to a lot of national and state conventions," Whitlock said.

That travel extended to his home life, his family said. Cary was a major fan of NASCAR and other forms of auto racing, and the family took a good number of trips across the country to different races.

"We had season tickets to Michigan International Speedway for a long time," Kevin said. "We went to Daytona twice. We went to Darlington (S.C.), Talladega (Ala.), Charlotte, and Bristol (Tenn.). We visited every state except Alaska, just vacation trips. He just wanted to see everything, and I think he wanted me to see everything too."

Cary enlisted in the Army in 1939, as a way to make good money at during the Depression. He signed up for a two-year stint at first, but was kept from leaving when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and war was declared. The original date for his discharge, Dec. 18, 1941, became his wedding day, after he was furloughed home.

Cary met his wife, Ardith, through Ardith's cousin, a classmate of Cary's.

"We got to know each other when I worked at my aunt's restaurant in Angola," Ardith said.

After getting out of the service, Cary came home to Angola, originally working as a mechanic, as he had in the service. He then took a job as a clerk at the post office. "he worked his way up," Kevin said. Eventually, Cary became a rural carrier.

While he was passionate about his work in the Legion and other veterans organizations, Kevin said his father didn't much like to talk about his own war experiences. Cary mostly served in the motor pool, working as a mechanic.

"He never talked about it, hardly at all," he said. "The one story he would talk about is being bivouacked on Iwo Jima at the end of an airfield, so every morning the planes would come flying in and wake him up." Cary would also talk about the time he came home from the South Pacific for leave, and arrived in Chicago. In January.

Charles Clifford

WATERLOO— Charles W. Clifford, 75, of Waterloo died peacefully at his home on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009.

Mr. Clifford was a lifelong DeKalb County farmer.

Mr. Clifford

He was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn.

He was born March 31, 1934, in Arcola to Oscar and Hazel (Felger) Clifford.

He married Roseline J. Brower in January 1954, in Whitley County. She died in August 1977.

Surviving are his companion of 30 years, Alice Maloy of Waterloo; children and spouses, Cathy and Mark Johnson of Little Rock, Ark., Charles J. Clifford of Los Angeles, W. Gene and Shawn Clifford of Auburn, Bradley A. Clifford of Waterloo, Brian S. and Stephanie Clifford of Waterloo, and William Charles "Bill" and Lisa Clifford of Auburn; 11 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; four brothers; and one sister.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; and two brothers.

Services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Father David Carkenord officiating. Burial will take place in Catholic Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. on Monday at the funeral home. There will also be one hour of visitation prior to the service on Tuesday. A rosary will be recited at 1:45 p.m. Monday prior to visitation.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County Heart Association.

Olabelle Hanna

BUTLER — Olabelle Hanna, 95, died Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home, Butler.

Olabelle was born on July 26, 1914, in St. Joseph, Mich., to Homer and Elizabeth (Deal) Boyd. She was a homemaker and member of the Butler United Methodist Church.

Survivors include three sons, Herbert (Harlean) Rowe of Wolcottville, Claire (Barbara) Rowe of Donna, Texas, and Laurel (Kathy) Rowe of Westville; three daughters, Ann Trammell of New Haven, Eva Crawford of Butler and Bonnie (Shawn) Spillane of Ottawa Mich.; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her two husbands, Herbert Rowe and Walter Hanna; three sons, Don, Dean and Larry Rowe; two daughters, Barbara Arnold and Rosemarie Rowe; four brothers; and two sisters.

Services will be Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 11 a.m. at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Kevin Marsh officiating.

Calling will be Tuesday from 3-6 at the funeral home. Burial will be in the Circle Cemetery, Hudson.

Memorials are to the Butler United Methodist Church.

Condolences may be sent to to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Mary Wood

HAMILTON — Mary L. Wood, 67 years, of Hamilton died Monday, September 28, 2009, at Lakeland Nursing Center, Angola, where she had been a resident the past two months.

Miss Wood

Mary was born on June 14, 1942, in Waterloo, the daughter of Thomas Seth and Eva Blanche (Richey) Wood.

She was a 1960 graduate of Hamilton High School.

Mary held several different employment opportunities, working as a packer at Wolhert's Automotive in Angola, a machine operator at Pittsfield of Indiana in Hamilton, and as a dietary aide at Laurels of DeKalb from where she retired in August 2008.

She was a member of the Hamilton Church of Christ.

Mary loved to attend county fairs, go flea market shopping in Shipshewana, attending Hamilton High School boys and girls basketball games, NASCAR and watching Indiana University basketball games.

Mary also loved to spoil the neighbors dogs, Charlie, Jessie and Antler, along with her and her sister Norma's cats.

Surviving is her sister, Norma J. Wood of Waterloo; a brother, James M. (Doris) Wood of Peru, Indiana; nephews, Michael Thomas Wood of Anderson, Indiana, James O. (Jan) Eliason of Peru, Indiana, and Scott Eliason of Las Vegas, Nevada; a great-nephew, Joey Eliason; four great-nieces, Jillian Eliason, Brittany Eliason, Melissa Eliason and Julie (Patrick) Petrowsky of Peru, Indiana; a great-great-niece, Alexia Wells; and cousins, Rebecca and Charles Carey of Hicksville, Ohio.

Her parents and one brother, Thomas Seth Wood Jr., preceded her in death.

Memorial services for Mary L. Wood will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, October 9, 2009, in the Hamilton Church of Christ, 4040 E. Church St., Hamilton, Indiana, with Pastor Jeff Alexander officiating.

Private interment will follow at Hamilton Cemetery.

Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service on Friday at the church.

Professional services have been entrusted to Oberlin-Turnbull Funeral Home & Crematory, Hamilton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes in the name of Mary L. Wood may be given to the Hamilton Church of Christ Building Fund or to Cameron Home Health Care and Hospice.

Condolences may be sent to the family or the on-line guest book signed at www.oberlinturnbull.com.

Dennis Reed

SPENCERVILLE — Dennis E. Reed, 66, died Sunday morning at his home in Spencerville.

He was born in Goshen, Ind., on August 28, 1943, to Donald & Doris (Garber) Reed. He married Diane Jagger on April 15, 1990, in Potsdam, Ohio.

Surviving are: his wife, Diane Reed of Spencerville, Ind.; his mother, Doris Reed of Goshen, Ind.; two daughters, Michale of Goshen, Ind., and Marci of Goshen, Ind.; a son, Matthewof Spring Hill, Fla.; a brother, Larry (Jeanette) Reed of Goshen; and a sister, Barbara of Ohio.

He was preceded in death by his father, Donald Reed.

Dennis worked for Phelps Dodge for many years before becoming a self-employed herbalist.

He enjoyed studying and sharing God's word and golfing.

Calling will be held from 2-7 p.m. today at the Spencerville Community Club in Spencerville, Ind. Services will be held on Wednesday at 11 a.m., with calling 1 hour prior at the Community Club. Dr. Harold Lovelace will officiate.

Preferred Memorials are to: Words & Wisdom Attn: Des Walter - P.O. Box 117 ,Centralia, IL 62801; Harold Lovelace Ministries - P.O .Box 995, Saraland, AL 36571 or Kingdom Bible Studies Attn: Preston Eby - P.O. Box 371240, El Paso, TX 79937.

Arrangements are by Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, Spencerville, IN.

Edna Smith

LINCOLN, Ill. — Edna Anne "Eddie" Smith, 70, of Lincoln died Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009, at her home.

Mrs. Smith has served as a missionary in Nigeria, West Africa, for 43 years.

Mrs. Smith

She was a member of the Lincoln Christian Church.

She was born Aug. 26, 1939, in Columbus, Ohio, to Paul and Geraldine (Siebert) Baughman. She married Walter C. Smith on July 20, 1959, in Columbus, Ohio. He survives in Lincoln.

Also surviving are a son, Keith (Nancy) Smith of Tucumcari, N.M.; a daughter, Jerianne (Timothy) Hyde of Lincoln; a brother, Richard (Patricia) Baughman of Vandalia, Ohio; a sister, Betty (Herman) Hafey of Columbus, Ohio; and six grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Donald Baughman.

Calling will be from 3-6 p.m Thursday at Lincoln Christian Church in Lincoln, Ill. Services will be at 6 p.m. Thursday at the church.

Local funeral services will be at 6 p.m. Friday at the Church of Christ on Oak Street in Butler, Ind., with Dan Wagner officiating. Calling will be from 3-6 p.m. Friday at the church.

Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Riverview Cemetery in Newville, Ind.

Memorials are to ACM International for Christian Memorial Medical Center in Nigeria or Home Services Hospice.

Fricke-Calvert-Schrader Funeral Home in Lincoln and H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home in Butler, Ind., are in charge of arrangements.

Freida Dailey

AUBURN — Freida L. Dailey, 99, of Auburn died Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

She was a homemaker and former employee of Messenger Corp. of Auburn, and Leas Supermarket of Auburn.

Mrs. Dailey

She was a member of the Auburn United Methodist Church, Auburn Eastern Star, Entre Nous Literary Club, and DeKalb Memorial Hospital Guild.

Mrs. Dailey was born in Concord Township, DeKalb County, on Aug. 31, 1910, to Norman and Luella M. (Bills) Wyatt.

Mrs. Dailey married Robert Lee Morr on Oct. 26th, 1935. He died July of 1952. She then married Russell M. Dailey November 2, 1956 who passed away July 1974.

She is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Larry and Lid Morr of Elkhart and Dick and Debbie Morr of Auburn; five grandchildren, Kristi Walling, Laralee Higgins, Kelly Morr, Vicki Morr and Scott Morr; three stepgrandchildren Russell Mitchener, Tom Ringle and Warren Hamman; six great-grandchildren; 10 stepgreat-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by three stepdaughters, Wanda Mitchener-Brill, Wava Hamman and Betty Ringle; one brother, Glenn Wyatt; and one sister, Beulah Mae Wyatt.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, October 8, 2009, at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St. Auburn, Indiana, with the Rev. Wilbur Yates officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-4 & 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to Auburn First United Methodist Church.

Barbara Hamilton

ST. JOE — Barbara L. Hamilton, 89, died Sunday, October 4, 2009, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

She was born in Kalamazoo, Mich., on July 16, 1920, to Newell and Fannie (Harrington) Pond.

She was a homemaker. She also worked in the office of the First United Methodist Church in West Lafayette. She gave piano lessons for many years and was the organist for Grace United Methodist Church in West Lafayette for over 30 years.

She married Dr. William H Hamilton on December 2, 1945, in Rochester, New York, and he passed away August 9, 2009.

She is survived by three daughters and two sons-in-law, Marilyn Hamilton of St. Joe, Phyllis and Jim Heath of West Lafayette and Dale and Pierre Verger of Ashland, Oregon; a daughter-in-law, Cathrine Hamilton of St Joe; a sister, Esther Howard of North Canton, Ohio; two grandsons and their spouses, Paul and Leah Hamilton of St. Joe and Ted and Lynn Hamilton of Loves Park, IL.; and two great-grandchildren, Kyle and Tyler Hamilton.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Roger; and a sister, Janette Swanson.

Services will be held at a later date.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 South Center Street, Auburn, IN 46706, is in charge of arrangements. Memorials can be directed to the DeKalb County Chapter of the American Cancer Society.

Maxwell Peachey

KENDALLVILLE — Maxwell L. Peachey, age 91, longtime Kendallville businessman and former owner of Peachey's Cleaners, passed away on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, at the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Peachey

Mr. Peachey was born in Topeka, Indiana, on February 14, 1918, to the late Clarence and Ella (Eash) Peachy.

He proudly served his country in the United States Navy during World War II.

He married Ruth M. Friedel on February 20, 1941, in Auburn.

Max was the owner and operator of Peachey's Cleaners in Kendallville for 50 years before retiring in 1995.

He was a member of the Francis Vinyard VFW Post 2749 in Kendallville and American Legion, Post 240 in Avilla.

Survivors include his wife of 68 years, Ruth Peachey of Kendallville; three daughters, Sharron and Richard Johnson of Williamsburg, Virginia, Diane Peachey of Kendallville and Carol Peachey of Avilla; five grandchildren, Cory Renkenberger of Kendallville, Brandon Johnson of Indianapolis, Trenton Johnson of Bloomington, Indiana, Athena Barkett of Marietta, Georgia and Tony Renkenberger of Avilla; four great- grandchildren; and three brothers, Willis Peachy of Kendallville, Francis Peachy formerly of Kendallville and Cy Peachy of The Villages, Florida.

He was also preceded in death by two sisters, Maxine Woodcock and Betty Christine Peachy.

Visitation will be Thursday, October 8, 2009, from 3-7 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Friday, October 9, 2009, at 11 a.m. at Hite Funeral Home.

Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville with military honors conducted by members of the VFW. Post 2749.

Casketbearers will also be members of the VFW Post 2749.

Preferred memorials may be made to Humane Society of Noble County.

View a video tribute by Thursday or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Robert Ewing

KENDALLVILLE — Robert Eugene Ewing, 74, of Kendallville died Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Ewing

Mr. Ewing graduated from North Side High School in Fort Wayne and Purdue University on a track scholarship. He attained his bachelor of education degree from Purdue in 1956 and a master's degree from Ball State University.

He taught vocational drafting and industrial arts at Garrett High School in Garrett, Ind., for 35 years. He was the track and cross country coach at Garrett for many years and later served as a volunteer track coach at East Noble High School in Kendallville.

Mr. Ewing was a member of Trinity Church United Methodist in Kendallville where he was the facilitator for and active with the Divorce Care group.

He was born in St. Joseph County, Ind., on Jan. 21, 1935, to Theodore and Mildred W. (Hennon) Ewing.

His first wife was Stephanie (Bonahoom) Ewing, who preceded his death in 1986.

His second wife was Margaret Tarney Ewing, who also preceded his death May 19, 2009.

Surviving are two sons, Paul and Connie Ewing of Waynesville, Ohio, and Robert Timothy and Carol Ewing of Churubusco; a daughter, Jennifer Kennedy of Garrett; a foster son, Lynn Gonzales of Fort Wayne; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a brother, Dr. Dean and Shirley Ewing of Colorado.

He was also preceded in death by his parents.

Calling will be from 5-8 p.m. Friday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Trinity Church United Methodist, corner of State and Rush streets in Kendallville, with the Rev. Scott Pattison officiating. Burial will be at a later date at Christian Union Cemetery near Garrett.

Preferred memorials are to Trinity Church.

View a video tribute by Friday or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Loran King

BUTLER — Loran D. King, 88, died Monday, October 5, 2009, at his home.

He was born in Butler on February 2, 1921, to Samuel E. and Odessa Belle (Haverstock) King. His parents have preceded him in death.

Mr. King

He was a Franklin Township farmer all his life, milking cows for more than 70 years. He was also a Pioneer Seed sales representative for 25 years. He was currently serving on the Franklin Township Advisory Board.

Mr. King was a former Franklin Township Trustee for more than 17 years and a former Hamilton School Board member.

He was a member of New Hope Christian Center.

He married Dorothymae Robison on February 24, 1945, in Butler and she died April 13, 1995. He then married Donna Aldrich on April 29, 2009, in Auburn and she died March 1, 2003.

He is survived by three sons and daughters-in-law, Lowell and Yvonne King of Waterloo, Wayne and Debbie King of Butler and Darrell and Tina King of Angola; and a daughter and son-in-law, Cheryl and William Click of Auburn. There are five stepsons and a stepdaughter; a brother and sister-in-law; Ralph and Sadie King of Tavares, FL.; seven grandchildren, Karen (Brian) Mack of Hamilton, Mike King of Indianapolis, Robin Click of Auburn, Brenda (Oscar) Avila of Garrett, Jon King of Waterloo, Melissa (Eliseo) Duran of Cleveland, Ohio and Aylah King of Angola; and two great-grandsons, David Alexander and Oscar Click.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, October 8, 2009, a New Hope Christian Center, Waterloo. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery, Butler, Ind.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. today, Wednesday, October 7, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo, 875 S. Center St., Waterloo and also 1 hour prior to the service Thursday at the church from 1 to 2 p.m.

The family asks that memorials be directed to the church.

Andrew Vice

ALBION — Andrew Charles "Andy" Vice, age 29, of Albion died Monday, October 5, 2009, from injuries due to an automobile accident in Huntington.

He was born in Fort Wayne on July 16, 1980, to Charles and Amy (Bair) Vice.

Mr. Vice

Above all in life, Andy was a devoted husband, father, son, brother and good friend.

He graduated from Central Noble High School in the class of 1999, and received his associate degree from ITT Tech in 2002. On May 20, 2000, he married Jamie (Coney) Vice at the Albion Wesleyan Church in Albion. Surviving are his wife, Jamie; a daughter, Kaitlyn Nicole at home; two sons, Rece Andrew and Landen Drew, both at home; his parents, Charles and Amy Vice of Albion; three brothers, Cory (Ashley) Vice of Garrett, Tony Vice of Albion and Alex Vice of Albion; his mother and father-in-law, Garry and Carol Coney of Albion; his brothers-in-law, Shane and Tammy Coney of Albion and Carey and Dylan Coney of Avilla; his maternal grandparents, Lynn and Anita Bair of Churubusco; and his paternal grandparents, Holly Hovarter of Albion and Jerry Vice of St. John, Michigan.

Andy was a lifetime member of the Albion community and was involved in many aspects of community life. He was a Cub Scout Leader for Albion Pack 3111, he coached the Central Noble's Junior Varsity girls basketball team and the seventh grade girls basketball team. He also coached the sixth grade boys basketball team for Central Noble and coached Little League baseball in Albion.

He had been a network engineer for the Huntington County Community School Corporation since July of 2007. He was the IT coordinator for the Noble County Public Library, and former tech specialist for the Central Noble School Corporation.

He also enjoyed playing sports, golfing, fishing, watching his kids play sports, playing video and computer games and jumping on the trampoline with his kids.

Funeral services for Andy will be Friday, October 9, 2009, at the Central Noble High School Auditorium at 11 a.m. Pastor Jim Barnes of the Cosperville Baptist Church will officiate.

Visitation will be from 2-8 p.m. today, Thursday, October 8, 2009, at the Brazzell Funeral Home, Albion Chapel, 771 Trailridge Road, Albion.

Burial will follow the funeral at the Rose Hill Cemetery in Albion.

Please make memorial donations in lieu of flowers to his children's fund at Community State Bank in Albion.

To view the obituary online or to leave a online condolence visit www.brazzellfuneralhome.com.

April Trenary

BUTLER — April D. Trenary, 25, of Butler died Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at Norris Chapel United Methodist Church. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 2 to 8 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Relay For Life.

H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral & Cremation Service in Butler is in charge of arrangements.

A full obituary will appear in the paper on Friday.

April Trenary

BUTLER — April D. Trenary, 25, of Butler died Wednesday at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Trenary was a student at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, majoring in English.

Mrs. Trenary

She was a member of Norris Chapel United Methodist Church.

She was born on March 8, 1984, in Hicksville, Ohio, to David and Francine (Yochum) Martin. She married Tony Trenary on Sept. 15, 2008, at Norris Chapel Church.

Surviving are her husband, Tony; her parents, David and Fran Martin of Hicksville; a brother, David Martin Jr. of Naples, Fla.; and her maternal grandmother, Ruth Yochum of Hicksville, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandfather, Frank Yochum.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Norris Chapel Church, Auburn, with Pastor Diane Barrett officiating. Burial will be at Woodlawn, Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. today at the church and one hour prior to the funeral Saturday.

Preferred memorials are to DeKalb County Relay for Life.

H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home and Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent and a video tribute viewed at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Angel Karr

GARRETT — Infant Angel Jaiden Karr died Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2009, at Dupont Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Surviving are her parents, Nichole Emenhiser and Dustin Karr of Garrett.

Private family services will be held.

Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services in Auburn will be held.

To leave a condolence or sign the guest book, visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

THE EVENING STAR
October 11 2009 Auburn, Indiana

A woman of family, faith

Mary Bowman lifted everybody's spirits

BY WANDA YODER
wyoder@kpcnews.net

MONGO — Mary C. Bowman was strong in her faith.

Mrs. Bowman, 57, of Mongo, lost her eight-year battle with ovarian cancer on Aug. 26 at her residence. She left behind her memories with those whose lives she touched.

Her obituary lists her as a homemaker and baby sitter. But she was much more than that. She was very active in the community and a powerhouse of faith and love. Mary looked and searched to find the good in everyone. It was because of her generosity and caring for those around her that she was named Mayor of Mongo of 2005. She also won the Pigeon RiverFest pie bake-off.

Her family remembers some of her most often-used life quotes. They included: "Life is what you make of it;" "Don't expect anything you are not willing to work for;" and "Protect and love your Lord, family and friends."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Duane and the late Mary C. Bowman

Mary was strong in her faith and her dedication to children was felt in the church. She served the congregation as a Sunday school teacher, youth choir director, youth group leader, Vacation Bible School teacher, Christmas program coordinator, nursery worker, mission coordinator and junior church teacher.

Mary was faithful in the Mongo United Methodist Church, but also took her faith into her everyday life to those she met.

"Jesus is the light of the world. She was a beacon. She was my sister-in-law, but she was my sister in Christ," said John D. Bartlett, pastor of the Mongo United Methodist Church where Mary Bowman attended. "She lived one day at a time and was grateful for every day she had. She never complained and kept everything to herself, even though she suffered with cancer for eight years. Most people forgot she had cancer. She just kept doing so much. The chemo affected her kidneys, and when she was put on dialysis, they stopped the chemo. At church, she treated the kids like her own.

"She was certainly big-hearted. She was the extended family that the church is supposed to be. If I could be anything like her, I would. She lifted everybody's hopes and spirits," pastor Bartlett said.

"We shared some tough times when there was no work in the late '70s and early '80s, but she always found enough that our kids never knew we were struggling," said Mary's friend and husband of nearly 40 years, Duane. "We have shared a lot more of great times, though. Family time was always her favorite, whether we were at a ball game, church or a picnic in the backyard. Mary's favorite place to camp was 40 yards from our front door in our own backyard. We chose to have our children early in life, so we could grow up together."

And that they did, three daughters and two sons-in-law, Shanon and Jamie Staton of Mongo, Brittny and Tyler Cooley of Michigan City, and Nicolette Byers of Mongo; a son and his fiancee, Brandon Bowman and Suzanne Krontz of Mongo. The couple also had four granddaughters, Caterina, Isabella, Hannah and McKenna.

Only, that was not enough. Mary had more love to share and baby-sat for children the community for 25 years and at one point, the couple was awarded guardianship over two children. Mary never made much money baby-sitting, because she always spent it on the kids.

"It was nothing for Mary to take eight kids to the zoo, movies, park, theater and or town a couple of times a week. We had the fullest pew in church, because all the kids wanted to set with 'Aunt Mary,'" he said.

"I was the younger sister, so Mary mothered me," said Rhonda Bartlett, sister to Mary, and added, "When she got sick, I took her to chemo. She had a great rapport with other patients and the nurses. Every time we went, she would take things for the patients and nurses. She always took a crochet basket with her," Rhonda said. (Her basket, which contained an unfinished project, was displayed at the funeral viewing.)

"Over the years, we got together a lot. She would bring the kids over 2-3 days a week. We did just everything together," she said.

Daughter Shanon also remembered her mother's crocheting and cherished the things her mother crocheted for her family.

"She loved to crochet, and every kid in town had received a homemade afghan and hat when they were born," she said. "When Caterina wore a homemade hat to school, all the kids wanted one, so she made each student in her class a hat and set of mittens."

"We did not have everything financially, but we never knew we were poor," Shanon's brother, Brandon, added.

Mrs. Bowman cooked and baked for the community shut-ins, the sick or anyone in the hospital. She made wedding cakes for her daughters', nieces' and nephews' weddings. Mary never met a stranger and went above board be a friend and to show how she cared.

According to her family, she was not a cancer victim — she was a cancer hero. She was a whirlwind of energy and inspiration to the patients. She was diagnosed eight-and-one-half years ago, but never saw it as a death sentence.

Her caring character may have been inherited from her parents, Ernest A. and Della (Bell) Rhinesmith of Mongo. Della has been caring for a neighbor who has fallen and is shut-in at this time. She is also survived by a brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Sherryl Rhinesmith of Wolcottville, and several nieces and nephews.

THE EVENING STAR
October 12 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Lois Krontz

AUBURN — Lois E. Krontz, 94, of Auburn died Sunday, Oct. 11, 2009, at Betz Nursing Home.

She was born Oct. 20, 1914, in Montpelier, Ohio, to the late Fred and Della (Favourite) Weber.

She worked in the office at Warner Gear in Auburn for 16 years before retiring on Jan. 1, 1980. She was a lifetime member of the DeKalb Memorial Hospital Guild.

She married Carl Krontz on Aug. 1, 1935, and he died April 3, 1965.

Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, William and Sue Krontz of Butler, Howard and Carol Krontz of Kendallville and Carl "Dean" and Vickie Krontz of Jerome, Mich.; 14 grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; a son, Brian Krontz; a grandson; four sisters; and a brother.

There are no services or calling. Burial will take place in Butler Cemetery, Butler.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo are in charge of arrangements.

Ruth Griffin

GARRETT — Ruth W. Griffin, 89, of Garrett died Monday, Oct. 12, 2009, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

She was born Jan. 19, 1920, in Auburn to James F. and Alta A. (Gump) Wiley.

She married James A. Griffin Oct. 21, 1937, in Garrett, and he died on June 21, 2001.

She had worked at Electric Motors and Bauman Harnish in Garrett. She was a member of the Nazarene Church in Garrett.

She is survived by a son and a daughter-in-law, Paul Eugene and Maxine Griffin of Valreco, Fla.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Connie Jo and Kent Strong of Garrett and Karen Sue and Frank Davis of Indianapolis; a brother, Howard Wiley of Garrett; eight grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, two brothers, Ray and Orville Wiley, and a sister, Martha O. Steiman.

Services will be Thursday at noon at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with Pastor Clare Jewell officiating. Burial will follow in Cedar Creek Cemetery in Garrett.

Calling will be Thursday from 10 a.m. until service time.

Memorials are to the Alzheimer's Association.

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Chasity Swegles

ANGOLA — Chasity M. Swegles, 33, of Angola died Oct. 1, 2009, at Angola.

Mrs. Swegles worked at Tom's Donuts.

She was born Aug. 25, 1976, in Kendallville.

She married Tony Swegles on Oct. 13, 2008. He survives in Angola.

Also surviving are her father, Edward Geist of Garrett; her mother, Emmylou Daler of Sturgis, Mich.; a foster mother, Pat Trietch of Angola; a grandparent, Shirley Daler of Angola; three sons, Tyler, Joseph and William Jackson, all of Fort Wayne; two daughters, Harly Marie Daler of Angola and Jasmine Jackson of Fort Wayne; three brothers, Tom Islam of Sturgis, Mich., and Clint Geist and Chase Geist, both of Auburn; and two sisters, Amber Islam of Battle Creek, Mich., and Heather Daler of Tennessee.

Services will be Friday at 6 p.m. in Calvary Temple Pentecostal Church, 400 E. Henry St., Angola.

Memorials are to the family to help with funeral expenses.

Weicht Funeral Home of Angola is handling arrangements.

Donald Frazier

AUBURN — Donald "Junior" Frazier, 84, of Auburn died Saturday, Oct. 10, 2009, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

He was born in Fort Wayne on May 24, 1925, to Donald J. and Genevive Frazier. They preceded him in death.

He is survived by a stepsister, Evelyn Hurni-Kallas Hacker of Ocala, Fla.; two stepbrothers, George Martin of Angola and Perry Martin of Ocala; and several stepnieces and stepnephews.

He was preceded in death by his stepmother Louis (Stayer) Frazier in 1983.

There will be no services or calling. Burial will be in the Waterloo Cemetery.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo is in charge of arrangements.

Pearl Ellert

AUBURN — Pearl E. "Peg" Ellert, age 85, of Auburn, IN died Monday, October 12, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn, Ind.

Mrs. Ellert

She was born October 2, 1924, in Garrett, IN to William and Velma (Miller) Geiser and they preceded her in death. She married Carl A. Ellert on April 19, 1947, in Auburn, Ind., and he survives in Auburn.

She was a homemaker and member of the DeKalb County Home Demonstration Club and Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn.

She is survived by her husband, Carl A. Ellert of Auburn, Ind.; four daughters, Karen and Bruce LeVasseur, Evergreen, Colo., Toni Garvin of Fremont, Ind., Lisa Sproat of Garrett and Renee and Doug Harp of Kendallville; two sons, Larry and Valerie Ellert of Virginia and Mark Ellert of Fort Wayne, Ind.

She is also survived by her granddaughters, Jennifer Greenman of New Haven, Jamie Sproat of Avilla, Brittney Ellert of Tallahassee, Fla., Nikki LeVasseur of Evergreen, Colo., Abby Harp of Kendallville and Kristen Garvin of Fremont. Peg is survived by her grandsons, Joel Ellert of Fort Wayne, Brandon Ellert of Chicago, Andrew Harp of Kendallville, Dan Garvin of Fremont and Jared Sproat of Garrett; two great-grandchildren, Shayla Greenman of New Haven, Ind., and Braden Ellert of Fort Wayne. Peg is survived by two stepgrandchildren, Ryan Kish of Virginia and Marlo Kish of West Virginia, and two stepgreat-grandchildren, Luc Kish and Alexa Kish of Virginia.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Velma Geiser, and a brother, William Geiser Jr.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 10 a.m. Friday, October 16, 2009, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn with Fr. Derrick Sneyd officiating. There will be visitation from 9-10 a.m. Friday at the church. Burial will follow in Catholic Cemetery at Auburn, Ind.

Visitation will also be from 3-8 p.m. Thursday, October15, 2009, at Thomas Funeral Home - Garrett, Ind., with a rosary service to be held at 7:30 p.m.

Memorials are to Masses or the Down Syndrome Association of Northeast, IN (DSANI), P.O. Box 13611, Fort Wayne, IN 46865.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org

Donna Bailey

AUBURN — Donna J. Bailey, 82, of Ashland, Ky., passed away Monday, October 12, 2009, at Community Hospice Care Center in Ashland, KY.

She was born December 19, 1927, in Warsaw, Ind., the daughter of the late Leon and Clyttie Walton. She married Alfred D. Bailey on November 4, 1945, in Garrett. He preceded her in death.

She was a homemaker and secretary of the Homemakers Club of DeKalb County.

Mrs. Bailey was a member of the Pythian Sisters and the Literary Club of Auburn.

"Mom also was an accomplished poet and had many poems published in the World Treasury of Great Poems as well as being a great mother and friend."

She was a member of Cedar lake Church of Christ in Waterloo until she moved to Kentucky and joined the Hoods Creek Baptist Church where she was saved.

She is preceded in death by her son, Douglas Bailey, and daughter, Norma Piggott.

She is survived by two sons, Mike Bailey of Butler, Ind., and Norman Bailey of New Carlisle, Ohio; two daughters, Sharon Worley of Amarillo, Texas, and Beth Mcdavid of Ashland, Ky.; 16 grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Visitation will be Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Interment will be at Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the charity of your choice.

To sign the online guest book or send a condolence, please visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

George Pepple

AUBURN — George Alton Pepple, 80, of Auburn died Friday, Oct, 16, 2009, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

He was born Dec. 1, 1928, in Garrett to Chester and Sylvia (Bosler) Pepple. They have both passed away.

Mr. Pepple

Mr. Pepple was an independent owner-operator over the road truck driver. He retired in 1991.

He was a U.S. Army veteran stationed in Germany during the Korean War.

He was a member of the Teamster's Union, Local 142, the Butler American Legion Post 202 and the Waterloo United Methodist Church.

He married Phyllis Joyce Black on June 30, 1956, in the Sparta Church in Kimmell. She survives.

He is also survived by a son, Tom Pepple of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Mike Bishop of Auburn; and two grandchildren, Rochelle Bishop and Drew Bishop, both of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by four sisters and a brother, Ethel Smith, Martha Golden, Lois Pepple, Hilda Bailey and Kenny Pepple.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, October 20, 2009, at Waterloo United Methodist Church. The Rev. David Mathews will officiate. Burial will be in Fair View Cemetery, Huntertown.

Calling will be Monday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Preferred memorials can be directed to the family.

Mary Hoeffel

GARRETT — Mary C. Hoeffel, 49, of Garrett died Thursday, Oct. 15, 2009, at Regency Place in Fort Wayne.

She was born Dec. 15, 1959, in Auburn.

Miss Hoeffel

She was a member of Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett and a member of the 3rd Order of Saint Francis.

She had worked at Foundations of Noble County.

Surviving are her parents, Harris and Ann Hoeffel of Auburn; three brothers, Matt Hoeffel of Auburn, Nate Hoeffel of Fort Wayne and Chris Hoeffel of Garrett; and three sisters, Cande Bishop of Garrett, Holly Custer of Garrett and Deb Saylor of Garrett.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Harris H. "Punk" Hoeffel Jr. on Sept. 23, 2009.

Mass of Christian burial will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Saint Joseph Catholic Church, 300 W. Houston St, Garrett. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Sunday at Pinnington McComb Funeral & Cremation Services. 502 N. Main St., Auburn, and one hour prior to services Monday at the church.

Memorials are to Saint Joseph Catholic Church.

To sign the guest book or leave an online condolence, visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

Clifford Sommers

WATERLOO — Clifford C. Sommers, 76, of Waterloo died Thursday, October 15, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

He was born April 23, 1933, in Beaverdam, Ohio, to Paul H. and Frances (Marshall) Sommers. They have both passed away.

Mr. Sommers

Mr. Sommers worked for International Harvester in Fort Wayne for 22 years, then for DeKalb High School as head custodian for 12 years before retiring in 1996.

He was a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps, serving on the front line during the Korean War.

Mr. Sommers attended the Waterloo United Methodist Church and was a member of the Waterloo VFW.

He loved people, reading, traveling, the outdoors, hunting, fishing and just enjoyed God's nature.

He married Nancy Daugherty on July 2, 1955, and she survives.

He is also survived by three sons and a daughter-in-law, Jonathan C. Sommers of Derby, Kan., Scott A. and Robin Sommers of New Lenox, Ill., and Todd M. Sommers of Auburn; one granddaughter, Jamie L. Sommers of Carbondale, Ill.; two stepgrandchildren, Shawn (Brandi) Rutter and Sarah (Aaron) Brandon; three great-grandchildren, Bayliegh A. Rutter, Timmery Rutter and Ashlynn Brandon; a sister and brother-in-law, Dolores "Kay" and James Cox of Fairborn, Ohio; and two brothers and a sister in law; Ronald E. and Judy Sommers of Auburn and Paul K. Sommers of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a grandson, Christopher C. Sommers; and two sisters, Bette Trisel and Patricia Zizelman.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday, October 19, 2009, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, IN. The Rev. Rex Charles and the Rev. David Mathews will officiate. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery, Rockford, Ohio.

Calling will be from 2 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

The family asks that preferred memorials be directed to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

THE EVENING STAR
October 18 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Ex-chief helped start fire department

BY JENNY KOBIELA-MONDOR
jennyk@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Louis "Shorty" Timmerman loved his family, enjoyed work and spent time working at his church, but one of his life's devotions was the Jackson Township Fire Department.

"We kidded, they could put a bed over there and he could stay," said his wife, Gertrude.

Timmerman died Sunday, Sept. 6, 2009, at the age of 78.

Timmerman was a volunteer firefighter at Jackson Township and served as the fire chief for over 20 years, Gertrude said.

"The reason why the fire department started out here was because Auburn wanted too much money to cover the township," she said. "He went over and helped. They started at a hangar at the airport, and then they got money and they built the building down the road."

Gertrude said her husband didn't have any firefighting experience, but he was interested in helping out. The fire department was one of his biggest hobbies, she said.

Mr. Timmerman

The Timmermans were married for over 57 years — they would have celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary less than a month after Louis' death.

He was a hard worker throughout their years together, she said. He was in the U.S. Army from 1952-1954, serving at Fort Lee, Va., and worked for the Partee Co. in Spencerville and Foamex in Auburn. He also spent some time farming, and was a 4-H leader.

"He mostly worked, and we went to church," she said. "I stayed home with the kids."

The couple have three sons, Lynn, Lyle and Lee, and one daughter, Linda, as well as nine grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and two stepgrandchildren.

"He went to ballgames and stuff. He was active with the kids," Gertrude said. "He loved his children, his grandkids and his great-grandkids."

Louis Timmerman also was a trustee at Indian Village Church of God, and spent a lot of time helping to build the church. After he retired, he also helped build Griswold Apartments, doing odd jobs to fill his time and keep active.

Mostly, Gertrude Timmermann remembers her husband as a nice, pleasant person.

"He was kind of quiet. He really didn't say too much," she said. "He just took life easy. He was very easy-going."

Kenneth Hawkins

GARRETT — The Rev. Kenneth T. Hawkins, 88, of Garrett, died Friday, Oct. 16, 2009.

Graveside services will be 10 a.m. Tuesday at Marion National Cemetery, Marion, with the U.S. Army presenting military honors. Condolences may be left and an online register book signed at thomasfuneral-home.org.

Rex McHarry

AVILLA — Rex E. McHarry, 87, of Avilla and formerly of Anderson died Friday, Oct. 16, 2009, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. McHarry retired as a department manager at Sears & Roebuck where he was employed for over 26 years.

He served in the Navy during the World War II and the Korean Conflict. He was member of the American Legion Post 240 of Avilla. He also volunteered his time at the VA Hospital and for the DeKalb County Hospice.

He was born July 3, 1922, in Anderson to George and Blanch (Hunt) McHarry. They both preceded him in death.

He married Mardell King on Sept. 21, 1942, and she died on Sept. 19, 1982. He then Married Edith Ray on July 4, 1988, and she died on Aug. 15, 1996.

He is survived by one daughter and son-in-law, Lynn and Kieth Siples of Avilla; three grandchildren, Brandon Smith, Ryan Smith and Jacob Mathley; and six great-grandchildren, Alexandra Mathley, Khristopher Mathley, Lynnsey Zimmerman, Emma Smith, Adam Smith, and Joshua Mathley.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Robert McHarry.

There will be no calling or services at this time. A private family memorial service will be held at Vinson Memorial Park in Summitville, Ind., at a later date.

Memorials may be directed to Habitat for Humanity.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Gladys Wilcoxson

AUBURN — Gladys L. "Bunny" Wilcoxson, 99, of Auburn died Friday, Oct. 16, 2009, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Mrs. Wilcoxson retired from Messenger Corporation in 1980 where she had worked as a bookkeeper for 48 years. She was a member of Hopewell United Brethren Church in rural Auburn.

She was born Aug. 10, 1910, in DeKalb County to Michael and Alice (Carnahan) Shoudel. They preceded her in death.

She married Carl W. Wilcoxson on July 7, 1940, and he preceded her in death on March 6, 1984.

She is survived by two sons and a daughter-in-law, Gail Wilcoxson of Auburn and Wayne and Audra Wilcoxson of Auburn; and one sister, Ruby Yoder of Huntertown.

She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Ora Shoudel and Roy Shoudel, and three sisters, Neva Boyce, Lela Schwartz, and Bertha Shoudel.

Services will be 2 p.m. Monday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor John Erwin officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be from noon to 2 p.m. Monday prior to services at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Alzheimer's Association.

Eugene Bruns

PAYNE, Ohio — Eugene W. Bruns, 84, of Payne died Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Mr. Bruns was born in Woodburn, Ind., on Aug. 9, 1925, to Katie (Helmke) and William Bruns.

He served in the U.S. Coast Guard, worked in maintenance at GM Powertrain, Defiance, and was a member of the Van Wert American Legion post and Divine Mercy Catholic Parish of Paulding County.

On Oct. 25, 1947, he married Alice Peck, who survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Theresa and Joe Lehman of Haviland, Ohio, and Mary and Fritz Cooper of Garrett; a son and daughter-in-law, William and Karen Bruns of New Haven; a sister, Edna Bruns of Haviland, Ohio; 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his son, Gary.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be Thursday at 10 a.m. at Divine Mercy Catholic Parish in Payne, with the Rev. G. Allan Fillman officiating. Burial will be in St. John the Baptist Catholic Cemetery.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m., with the rosary recited at 8 p.m., and Thursday from 9-9:30 a.m. at Dooley Funeral Home, 5761 S.R. 500, Payne.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences may be shared at www.dooleyfuneralhome.com.

Linnet Cole

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Linnet Hartman Cole, 65, died Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2009, at 1:15 a.m. at Nathan Adelson Hospice in Las Vegas.

She was born Aug. 30, 1944, to the late Ernest and Dessie (Durst) Greenfield.

Mrs. Cole

She is survived by her husband, Phil Cole; five children, Linda Burcham of Las Vegas, Shelly Littlefeather of Tejunga, Calif., M. Sgt. Shane Smith stationed with the U.S. Air Force at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, Lisa Corona of Las Vegas and Nick Corona of San Diego, Calif.; 14 grandchildren; and three sisters, Donna Ort of Angola and Ann Butler and Charlotte Igney, both of Auburn.

She was preceded in death by an infant sister, Faye Ann Greenfield, and an infant daughter, Lynn McCollough.

There will be a private memorial service at a later date.

Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville is in charge of arrangements.

Darlene Miller

ST. JOE — Darlene Mary (Wisler) Miller, 69, was called Home to be with the Lord on Sunday, October 18, 2009. She passed peacefully, at the home she was born in, after several years of battling renal cancer.

Mrs. Miller

Born on June 4, 1940, she was the daughter of Margarette (Hamilton) Wisler and the late Cecil G. "Cee" Wisler. She grew up in St. Joe and attended Riverdale High School, graduating in 1958. She than graduated from Warner Beauty College in 1960 and was the owner/operator of Darlene's Beauty Shop.

On January 6, 1962, she married Robert N. Miller of Leo.

She loved garage sales, gathering clothing for missions and she also volunteered at Cross Border Partners in Fort Wayne, Ind. Parkview Hospital was privileged to have her as a volunteer in the ICU unit for several years.

She was a member of Cedar Creek Church of Christ.

Surviving are her mother, Margarette H. Wisler of St. Joe; her husband of 47 years, Robert N. Miller; five daughters, Kristina (Roy) Galvin of Leo, Tammy (Jesse) Chagoya of St. Joe, Diane (Kenneth) Jacquay of Auburn, Carolyn (David) Retz of St. Joe and Janette (Jason) Roth of El Paso, Texas; her siblings,Neil Wisler of Spencerville, Tonda Miller of St. Joe and Cindy (Robert) Jarrett of St. Joe; 18 grandchildren; and five great-grandsons.

She was preceded in death by her father, Cecil G. Wisler; two granddaughters, Shawn Terran Galvin and Vash Lorraine Retz; a grandson, Aries Christian Jacquay; a sister-in-law, Mary Lou Wisler; and a brother-in-law, James E. Miller.

Calling will be held on Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville.

Services will be held on Thursday at 10 a.m. with calling 1 hour prior at Cedar Creek Church of Christ. Pastor Greg Krafft will officiate.

Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery at St. Joe.

Memorials may be given to Cross Border Partners, 4611 Newaygo Road, Suite A, Fort Wayne, IN 46808.

Judy Stutzman

ASHLEY — Judy Marie Stutzman, 67 of Ashley died Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2009, at her home surrounded by her family.

Mrs. Stutzman was a homemaker.

Mrs. Stutzman

She was born May 31, 1942, in Steuben County to Freeman and Clara (Frye) Tuttle. She married Floyd Stutzman on June 13, 1961, in LaGrange, Ind., and he survives.

Also surviving are four sons and four daughters, Dawn (Dennis) Dilley of Kendallville, Tim (Lisa) Stutzman of Waterloo, Marc (Janet) Stutzman of Steuben County, Christina (Jon) Newcomer of Kendallville, Denise (Mike) Miller of Corunna, Terry (Elizabeth) Stutzman of Auburn, Julie (Matt) Taylor of Waterloo and Jamie (Cera) Stutzman of Auburn; a brother, Kenneth (Arlene) Tuttle of Ashley; 22 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and three brothers, John, Willis and Richard Tuttle.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo with the Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating. Burial will be in Circle Cemetery, Hudson, Ind.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. today at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, Ind., and also one hour prior to the service at the church Friday.

Memorials are to Parkview Noble Hospice.

THE EVENING STAR
October 25 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Ewing touched so many lives

BY JAN RICHARDSON
janr@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — The Kendallville community lost one of its quiet leaders Oct. 6 with the death of Robert Ewing.

Mr. Ewing was the guiding force behind the Divorce Care and Choosing Wisely programs through Trinity Church United Methodist. He served as the programs' facilitator for many years, offering guidance and support to those contemplating or going through divorce.

Mr. Ewing

His compassion and understanding were appreciated by many participants.

"I was very blessed to be a student of Bob Ewing's Divorce Care Class. Bob had a passion for teaching and helping those going though this painful experience," said Karen Durham.

Durham said she thought Ewing, a retired longtime educator, was able to transfer his teaching style to the Divorce Care sessions. "He shared our hurts, frustrations and really cared about each of us," Durham said.

Divorce Care participant Kim Huff said, "Bob always had a listening ear and was truly concerned not just about me, but also my kids.

"He never judged, just encouraged me to keep moving forward and turn to the Lord. I feel I was truly blessed to have him help me through the most difficult time in my life.

He helped me see the light when all I could see was the darkness."

Tom Smith said, " … he helped me through a tough time in my life. He was a great and caring person. I will never forget what he did for me and how he was there to always help others. He will be greatly missed."

Although he had health problems, Ewing's death at age 74 was a surprise to many.

Mr. Ewing had been a dedicated teacher and coach for most of his life. He spent more than 30 years at Garrett High School teaching vocational drafting and industrial arts. His coaching career at Garrett spanned three decades as well. After retiring as Garrett's track and cross country coach, he volunteered with East Noble's track program for several years.

FILE PHOTO

This photo of Bob Ewing is from the Garrett High School 1967 yearbook. Mr. Ewing served as Garrett's track and cross country coach for more than 30 years.

Mr. Ewing's career at Garrett touched many lives including that of columnist Bob Novy. He wrote the following tribute for the Oct. 15 edition of the Garrett Clipper:

With sadness, I note the passing of former Garrett High School educator and coach Robert Ewing on October 6.

Ewing taught drafting and vocational drafting for 32 years, retiring in 1995. In addition, he was cross country and track coach at GHS from 1967 to 1972.

First and foremost, Ewing was an excellent instructor. Colleague David Neal praised Ewing for being ahead of the times in his field.

"In the early '80s, he had to be the first industrial arts instructor in the area to have a computerized drafting program, " Neal said. Many of his former students hold important positions in the field today.

Ewing was my health teacher my freshman year at GHS. I learned a lot from him in that class. But I learned far more from him as solid peer throughout my teaching career. Daily, in my early years at Garrett, I saw the commitment Ewing had to students. He had outstanding organizational skills and earned my respect as a fellow teacher.

Retired teacher and coach Richard Capin also had praise for Ewing. Capin was Ewing's mentor track coach.

"When he came here as an assistant, I turned over the middle distance and distance runners to him," Capin said. "We hit it off well together, and when I quit coaching and turned it over to him, he did a good job," he added.

Capin, who was Ewing's fishing partner in retirement, said that Ewing's strongest coaching quality was his ability to recognize talent and make athletes work hard. That approach paid great dividends in 1971 and 1972 when Ewing coached two-time GHS state high hurdle champion Jeff Stroman.

Ewing was also credited with starting the modern day cross country program at GHS.

Ewing himself had a great athletic career prior to his teaching and coaching days. The 1953 North Side graduate won back-to-back state track championships in the 200 yard dash in 1952 and 1953. His 1953 winning time was an outstanding 22.1 seconds. At Purdue, Ewing earned third place in the 100 yard dash at the Big Ten meet in 1955.

His career in high school and college track was recognized with his induction into the Indiana Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame on Jan. 19, 1990. The following year Ewing served on that same organization's induction committee.

May he rest in peace.

Robert Eugene Ewing leaves two sons and daughters-in-law, a daughter, a foster son, seven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and a brother and sister-in-law and countless former students and Divorce Care participants whose lives he touched in many ways.

As Tom Smith said, he will be greatly missed.

THE EVENING STAR
October 25 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Eric Lash

ANGOLA — Eric D. "Deke" Lash, 24 died Saturday, Oct. 24, 2009, at his home in Angola.

He was born March 19, 1985, in Phoenix, Ariz. His parents, Gerald and Jenyne (Carroll) Lash, survive in Hamilton. He married Tabatha Harr on July 30, 2005, in Waterloo and she survives.

He is also survived by three children, Ivy, Matayah and Gavin Lash, all at home. Four brothers and two sisters-in-law; Ted and Sherri Lash of Auburn, Tim Lash of Auburn, James and Cody Lash of Hudson and Tyler Lash of Hamilton; grandparents, Judy Rudolph of Hamilton and Everett and Sharon Carroll of Michigan; and a great-grandmother, Mary Catherine Rudolph of Huntertown.

He worked for Bostwick Brawn in Ashley. His hobbies were hunting, fishing and shooting pool.

Services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo, 875 South Wayne Street, Waterloo. Burial will be in Hamilton Cemetery, Hamilton.

Calling is Monday from 2-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to the family.

Donna Chaffin

GARRETT — Donna Jean Chaffin, 78, of Garrett, died Saturday, Oct. 24, 2009 at Select Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Chaffin

She was born Jan. 21, 1931 in Flint, Mich., to Walter Irvine and Alena Mae (Hogg) Gould.

Donna graduated from Flint Northern High School in Flint, Mich.

She married Rev. W. Calvin Chaffin on Jan. 27, 1951 in Angola. He died Sept. 17, 2004.

Mrs. Chaffin was employed by Bell Telephone and Maas Bros. in Flint.

She resided in Garrett since 1996.

Mrs. Chaffin was affiliated with numerous General Baptist Churches over many years and was active in Women's Missions Ministries with General Baptist denominations.

She is survived by a son and daughter in-law, Donald Calvin and Tonya (Avery) Chaffin of Garrett; three granddaughters and their spouses, Tara and Mike Lilly, Tricia and Chad Rayle and Trina and Kip Rayle all of Garrett; eight great-grandchildren; a brother, Ron Gould of Lupton, Mich.; and three sisters, Leona Margie Eberline of Cass City, Mich., Carolyn Cronk of Berkley, Mich., and Sandy Russell of National City, Mich.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; a son, Lowell Chaffin, who was born and died on Aug. 10, 1954; three brothers, Donald, William Kenneth and Ray Gould; and two sisters, Wanda Lee and Louise Blackmer.

Visitation will be Tuesday, Oct. 27 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett and Wednesday, Oct. 28 from 2-8 p.m. at Swartz Funeral Home in Flint, Mich.

The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 29 at Swartz Funeral Home with calling 1 hour prior. The Rev. Leroy Jolly Jr. will be officiating.

Burial will follow in Crestwood Memorial Cemetery in Grand Blanc, Mich.

Memorials are to the donor's choice.

To send a condolence or sign the on-line guestbook visit thomasfuneral-home.org

Estil Taylor

AUBURN — Estil E. Taylor, 89, formerly of St. Joe, died Saturday, Oct. 24, 2009, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

He was born on July 13, 1920, in Cecil, Ohio, to Harry and Mary (Loomis) Taylor. Estil served in the Army during World War II. He worked for 14 years at Rieke Corp. and for 19 years at Partee Co. He married Thelma Easterday on Sept. 22, 1941, in Auburn; she preceded in death on Sept. 5, 1991.

Estil was a member of the Auburn American Legion and the Butler Eagles.

Survivors include a son, Dennis of South Carolina; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a daughter, Sandy Taylor.

Services for Estil E. Taylor will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler. Visitation will be held two hours prior to services. Burial will be in Riverview Cemetery, Newville.

Victoria Parrish

GARRETT — Victoria D. Parrish, 51, of Garrett, died Sunday, Oct. 25, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was born June 7, 1958, in Fredericksburg, Texas, the daughter of Troy D. and Edith R. Kimmel.

She is survived by her husband, Mark Parrish of Garrett; two daughters, Bavadawn Hutson of Indianapolis and Amanda Bosell of Greenwood; her mother, Edith R. Kimmel of Fredericksburg, Texas; her grandchildren, Tramain Keen, Collin Hutson and Gary Jenkins; her sisters, Valarie L. Adams of Montpelier, Ind., and Millie A. Summers of Fort Wayne.

She was preceded in death by her father, Troy D. Kimmel.

Memorial calling will be held Thursday from 1-5 p.m. followed by a celebration of life service at 5 p.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Memorials are to the donor's choice.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery at a later date.

To sign the a guest book or to leave a condolence, visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

Rozella Dembickie

GARRETT — Rozella Mae Dembickie, 87, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Garrett died at 8:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 26, 2009, at Regency Place Nursing Home in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Dembickie

Mrs. Dembickie was an activities director at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn for 20 years, retiring in 2002.

She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett, Harvest House and the Garrett Eagles Auxiliary.

She was born Feb. 4, 1922, in Avilla, Ind., to James and Bertha (Betts) Owen. She married Joseph Dembickie on Sept. 2, 1939, in Garrett. He died June 1, 1982.

Surviving are a daughter, Barbara Walter of Fort Wayne; and two granddaughters; six great-grandchildren; and a sister, Sadie Grate of Ashley, Ind.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Russell Owen and Harold Owen; and a sister, Irene McPheeters.

A Mass of Christian Resurrection will take place at 1 p.m. Thursday at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett, with a calling for friends and family from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday at the church. Officiating will be Father Jacob Gall.

Burial will take place at a later date in Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett.

Memorials are to St. Martin's Soup Kitchen.

Send online condolences to thomasfuneralhome.org

Garnet Shull

AUBURN — Garnet M. Shull, 89, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Auburn died Monday, Oct. 26, 2009, at Kingston Care Center in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Shull was a homemaker.

She was born Oct. 11, 1920, in Corning, Ohio, to Hershal and Nancy (Moorehead) Fouts. She married L.D. Shull on Feb. 20, 1937, in Fort Wayne and he died June 18, 1998.

Surviving are a daughter, Sheila Purdy-Morgan and her husband Cliff of Fort Wayne; a son, Glenn Shull and his wife Sue of St. Paul, Minn; a daughter-in-law, Mary Shull of Auburn; a brother, Kenneth Fouts of Cleveland, Ohio; 10 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; a son, Ron Shull; five brothers; and three sisters.

There are no services or calling.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Memorials are to the Alzheimer's Association or American Cancer Society.

Audrey Wallen

KENDALLVILLE — Audrey Lee Wallen, age 73, of Kendallville, died on Tuesday, October 27, 2009, at Kendallville Manor Health Care Center in Kendallville.

Mrs. Wallen was born in Mousie, Kentucky, on February 15, 1936, to the late Clint and Ellen (Conley) Goodman.

She married Cledis Wallen on June 13, 1955, in Kendallville and he preceded her death August 7, 2005.

Mrs. Wallen

Mrs. Wallen was employed with Flint & Walling in Kendallville and retired from there after 25 years of service.

She was a member of the Community Baptist Church in Wolcottville.

Audrey enjoyed watching her favorite soap operas, making crafts, playing bingo, shopping and going to garage sales.

She loved family gatherings and getting together for the holidays with her family.

Survivors include her sons, Vernon and Brenda Wallen of Wawaka and Gregory and Michelle Wallen of Fort Wayne; daughter, Lisa Wallen of Kendallville; 10 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; three sisters, Jean and Clester Coburn of Corunna, Ella Dean Mitchell of Kendallville and Betty Goodman of Kendallville; and five brothers, Bill and Carolyn Goodman of Mongo, Claude "Bird" and Kim Goodman of Wolcottville, Harold Goodman of Texas, David and Joann Goodman of Stroh and James "Bud" and Deb Goodman of Stroh.

She was also preceded in death by brother, Elmer "Red" Goodman

Visitation will be today, Thursday, October 29, 2009, from 6-9 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Friday, October 30, 2009, at 10 a.m. at Hite Funeral Home, Kendallville.

Officiating the funeral service will be the Rev. Lee Combs.

Burial will be at Orange Cemetery near Rome City.

View a video tribute by today day or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com

Rita Arnold

SOUTH MILFORD — Rita F. Arnold, 53, of South Milford, died Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009 at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, Auburn.

She had worked at Cooper-Standard Automotive in Auburn for 25 years.

She was born in West Virginia on July 28, 1956, the daughter of Newton and Verna Underwood.

Survivors include: two sons, Doug and Chad Arnold, both of Angola; three sisters, Wanda Bowman, Rasall, W. Va., Charlotte Gosner, Auburn, and Jan Underwood, Fort Wayne; and two brothers, Roger Underwood, Auburn, and Darrell Bowman, Fort Wayne.

Her parents preceded her in death.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday with calling one hour prior at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery, Kendallville.

Calling will also be 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to United Way.

To sign a guest book or leave condolences, go online to www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

James Stuller

HELMER — James V. Stuller, age 52, of Helmer died on Wednesday, October 28, 2009, at Dekalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

He was born in Auburn on February 12, 1957, to William V. and Martha L. (Sprague) Stuller.

Mr. Stuller worked at A-1 Production in Kendallville for 15 years.

He liked to fish and and be outside. He also enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

Along with being outside, Mr. Stuller also loved listening to music.

Survivors include his partner, Carla J. Halferty of Helmer; three sons, Scott and Bridget Stuller of Waterloo,

Trenton Stuller of Auburn and Nathan Stuller of Auburn; 10 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; one brother, Bill Stuller of Goshen; and one sister, Karen and Dave Davidson of Waterloo.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Patti Stuller and Bonnie Heimert.

Visitation will be today, Friday, October 30, 2009, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Saturday, October 31, 2009, at 11 a.m. at Hite Funeral Home, Kendallville, with the Rev. Ron Stambaugh of the Free Will Baptist Church in Waterloo officiating.

Burial will be at Fairfield Center Cemetery in Corunna, Indiana.

View a video tribute by today, Friday, October 30, 2009 or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com

George Weicht

BUTLER — George H. Weicht, 88, died Wednesday at DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Weicht was a farmer and a tool and die maker for ARO Corp. in Bryan, Ohio, and Mold Service of Butler.

He was a graduate of Butler High School.

Mr. Weicht was a member of the Butler United Methodist Church, Indiana Farm Bureau, Butler Lions and the National Farmers Organization.

He was born Oct. 27, 1921, in rural Butler to George A and Mary F. Morrow Weicht. He married Elaine Cosper on Sept. 12, 1942, in Butler. She preceded him in death on Dec. 3. 1997.

Surviving are two sons, Ralph (Terry) Weicht of Waterloo and Gene Weicht of Butler; two daughters, Mary Trent of Columbia City and Nancy (Michael) Jehl of Butler; two grandsons that the Weichts raised, Sam (Tricia) Weicht of Butler and Steven (Katrina) Weicht of Butler; five other grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers, Dean, Cecil and William Weicht.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Kevin Marsh officiating. Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-7 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials are to the Butler United Methodist Church. Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com

Coralyn Greenfield

AUBURN — Coralyn J. Greenfield, 86, of Auburn died Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Greenfield

Mrs. Greenfield worked for the Rieke Corp. during the early 1940s. She then became a librarian at the Eckhart Public Library for 25 years, retiring in 1984. During her employment with the library, she was one of the co-founders of the Children's Library.

She was a member of the Auburn Presbyterian Church.

She was born Dec. 6, 1922, in Steuben County to Ralph and Cora (Barkley) Leas. She married Edwin C. Greenfield on Oct. 29, 1943, in Salem Center. He died Dec. 28, 1997.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, David M. and Donna Greenfield of Auburn; and three grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one son, Dennis Greenfield; one sister, Gladys C. Leas; and one stepgrandchild.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Howard Compton officiating. Burial will be in Circle Cemetery at Hudson.

Calling will be from noon to 2 p.m. Monday prior to the funeral service.

Memorials may be directed to the Auburn Presbyterian Church or the Eckhart Public Library Children's Services.

THE EVENING STAR

November 1 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Angola's first lady grew in role

Becoming mayor's wife brought out best in Thelma Beer

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — For much of her life, Thelma Beer, who died Oct. 11 in Angola, seemed content, her children said, to manage their family home and do volunteer work, and stay in the background behind her more outgoing husband, Roman.

Then Roman became Mayor of Angola.

"Mom was always soft-spoken and quiet," daughter Martha Crooks said. "It (being first lady of Angola) kind of brought it out of her a little more. She was always proud of dad and his achievements. Family was always first, then friends after that. The people close to her were very important."

"I think she easily followed Dad's lead, he was so outgoing," daughter Sarah Lane said.

Crooks said her mother would often say that she and Roman were simply different kinds of people. "'That's where Roman and I were different,'" Thelma would say. "'Roman is a type-A person, and I'm a type-D person. I move slowly and speak slowly. He's always six steps ahead of me.'"

The children said that their mother blossomed through her work on various boards and as a volunteer. Beer served as head of the building committee at what was then known as Shelter Ministries, now RISE Inc., which helped to build the organization's current facility. She served for many years and in many different capacities at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, and as a member of the hospital auxiliary at Cameron Memorial Community Hospital.

"I think volunteering at the hospital brought her out a little more," Lane said. "She really enjoyed it. It gave her a sense of purpose, and she saw a lot of people. She initiated a lot of contacts that way."

"She loved reaching out to people, she was always a people person," Crooks said.

Daughter Ruth Wappes said she wasn't sure her mother really understood how many people she had touched in her community through her volunteer work.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Thelma Beer valued her family above all things. With her are her children and their spouses, Sarah and Jim Lane, left, Karl and Portia Beer, Martha and Jeff Crooks and Ruth and Dave Wappes.

"She was always busy," Wappes said. "I don't think she had an idea the amount of lives she touched or the amount of love and respect the people of the community had for her. She was someone a lot of people could confide in and could be sure that what they said would go no further. And the advice she would give people would be what they needed to hear, not what they wanted to hear. It was the same way with us. She would always keep us in her prayers, she was just a really neat lady."

Wappes said her mother was a person of extraordinary faith, and served as a role model for many along their faith journey as a catechism teacher at the church. She would also prepare meals for funeral services at the church, creating a menu hat is still in use at the church today, Wappes said. "She was a wonderful role model of how to be a good person and a good mother."

Lane remembered instances where, like many Catholics, her mother would say a prayer to St. Anthony to help in finding some lost item. When her father, a convert to Catholicism, would lose something, Lane said he'd always ask her mother to say the prayer. When the item would be found, he'd thank her. "Then she'd say, 'Now say thank you to St. Anthony,'" Lane said.

Both Beers always put family first as the children grew up, they said.

"No matter what, we always had dinner as a family at 6 p.m.," son Karl Beer said. "Even when I got into athletics, and I had practice every night. It always worked out. Mom would always have a hot dinner at 6 p.m. Everyone shared things about their day."

During summers, especially, Thelma would always promise a trip to the lake to swim if the children finished their household chores, they said.

As Roman's health deteriorated — he died in 2007 — all of Beer's children say Thelma really became the public face of the family.

"When dad was homebound, she took up more of the role of initiating contact with people. She kind of surprised us with how assertive she got late in life," Lane said. "She became more confident."

"She ended up being a very strong woman," Karl said. "Not only physically, but in terms of keeping everything together."

THE EVENING STAR

November 2 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Mary Jean Custer

GARRETT — Mary Jean Custer, 83, died Sunday, Nov. 1, 2009 at Wesley Healthcare in Auburn.

She was born Dec. 10, 1925, in Garrett, to Carl E. and Beryl E. (Davis) Bonnett.

Mrs. Custer

She was employed at Electric Motors in Garrett and Kraft Foods in Kendallville before becoming the secretary to the mayor of Garrett for 14 years, retiring in 1991.

She was a member of the Living Waters Community Church in Garrett.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Holly Custer of Garrett; one brother, Paul Bonnett of Fort Wayne; one sister, Judith Becker of Fort Wayne; three granddaughters and their husbands, Ivy and Kevin Merriman of Huntertown, Shannon and Joe Day of Garrett, and Angela Custer, serving in the U.S. Air Force in Turkey; and a grandson and his wife, Shane and Maria Custer of Garrett. Also surviving are three great-grandsons, Aiden Custer of Garrett and Clint and Douglas Merriman of Huntertown; and two great-granddaughters, Alicia and Marissa Merriman of Huntertown.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Bruce Custer; and a sister, Shirley Bonnett.

There will be no calling.

A graveside memorial service will be held on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009 at 11 a.m. in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett. Rev. H. Dean Morris will officiate.

Memorials are to Parkview Home Health and Hospice

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook visit thomasfuneralhome.org

Sammye Jackson

GARRETT — Sammye Jean Jackson, age 67 of Garrett, Ind., died on Sunday, November 1, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn, Ind.

Mrs. Jackson

She was born August 29, 1942, in Hindman, Ky., to John and Freda (Butcher) Kilgore. She married Harry G. Jackson Jr. on March 22, 1986, in Garrett.

Sammye was a cheese maker at County Line Cheese for 19 years.

She was a member of the Garrett American Legion Auxiliary.

She loved to read, do art projects and collect antiques.

She is survived by her husband, Harry G. Jackson Jr. of Garrett, Ind.; a daughter, Katherine Kilgore of Batavia, Ohio; and three stepsons, Jeffrey Scott Jackson of Auburn, Ind., Mark Allen and Tina Jackson of Garrett, Ind., and Gregory W. and Deb Jackson of Fort Wayne, Ind. She is also survived by three brothers, George and Shelva Kilgore of Burlington, Ky.; John and Mary Kay Kilgore of Fort Wayne, Ind., and Chad and Dee Kilgore of Auburn, Ind.; five sisters, Dorothy and Ralph Summers of Auburn, Shelia and Rick Bush of Sparta, Tenn., Marlene and Dillard Bentley of Brinkley, Ky., Madeline Chaffins of Garrett and Gwen Kilgore of Hindman, Ky.; four granddaughters, Siobhan Elizabeth Stephenson of Batavia, Ohio, Emily Jackson of Auburn, Destiny Jackson of Garrett, and Hannah Jackson of Fort Wayne; and a grandson, Devon Jackson of Garrett. There are also several nieces and nephews surviving.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a daughter, Tammy Simons; a son, Timmy Simons; and a brother, Charles R. Kilgore.

Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday, November 5, 2009, at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett, Ind., with services to be held at 11 a.m. Friday, November 6, 2009, at the funeral home with Pastor Sam Weimer officiating.

Burial will follow in Cedar Creek Cemetery at Garrett.

Memorials are to the DeKalb Heart Association.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Keith Little

BUTLER — Keith E. Little, 77, of Butler died Monday at Parkview Nursing Home, Edgerton, Ohio.

Mr. Little had served as a janitor at Butler Elementary School for more than 27 years. He retired in 1993.

He was born on June 1, 1932, in Garrett to Firm and Alverda (Alwood) Little.

Surviving are his extended family, Bob and Maxine Meyer of Edgerton, Ohio, and Donna Meyer of Edgerton, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services for Mr. Little will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home Butler, with calling one hour before services.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Paul Potts

AUBURN — Paul R. Potts, 65, of Auburn died Sunday, Nov. 1, 2009, at Betz Villas in Auburn.

Mr. Potts was self employed for much of his life. He also worked for nearly 30 years for Martz Farms and for 15 years for Klink Trucking and for approximately five years for Bear Creek Trucking.

Mr. Potts

He was born Dec. 1, 1943, in DeKalb County to Elmer and Juanita (Shaw) Potts. He married Lucy M. Mansfield of Kendallville on June 16, 1968. They later divorced and he married Rita Rathburn and later Georgia Timmis. Both of those marriages also ended in divorce.

Surviving are a brother, Eugene Potts of Illinois; two sisters, Dorothy Potts of Mishawaka and Fairy Potts of New Castle; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Dale L. Potts and Heather M. Potts, both of Pleasant Lake, and Robert W. Potts of Corunna; five grandchildren, Natosha Potts, Chad Potts, Kylee Potts, Taylor Farr and Zachary Potts; and five stepgrandchildren, Karrie DeGraw, Phillip Sprague, Christopher Martinez, Cody Bute and Tylor Bute.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a son, Paul Eugene Potts.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, at Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson, with a dinner to follow.

Calling will be from 4-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, at the funeral home.

Barbara Rees

AUBURN — Barbara Jean Rees, 77, of Auburn and formerly of Angola died Sunday, Nov. 1, 2009, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

Mrs. Rees most recently ran a flea market in Muncie. Prior to operating the flea market, she worked as a housekeeper for the Lindenwood College in St. Louis, Mo.

Mrs. Rees

She was born July 19, 1932, in St. Charles, Mo., to Bill and Dorthy Yarnell. They both preceded her in death.

She married Raymond Rees in Colorado Springs, Colo., in 1960 and he died in 1994.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Danny and Diana Rees of Germany; two daughters and sons-in-law, Gail Estes and Mike Shockley of Angola, and Connie and Mike Brogan of Muncie; four sisters; one brother; and 14 grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by a daughter, Patty Beck; two sons, Johnny Beck and Kenny Beck; and a brother.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Al Black officiating. Burial will be in Circle Hill Cemetery of Angola at a later date.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Gail Estes.

James Souder

GARRETT — James A. Souder, age 61 of Garrett, Ind., died at 10:41 a.m. Wednesday, November 4, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn, Ind.

He was born January 4, 1948, in Garrett, Ind., to James N. and Alice M. (Dilgard) Souder. He married Peggy J. Bacon on April 14, 1981, in Las Vegas, Nev., and she survives in Garrett.

He worked at Eaton Corporation in the sales department for 34 years, retiring in 2002. He then worked at JY Design and Print from 2002 until the present.

James loved his family, friends and especially Notre Dame sports.

James is survived by his wife, Peggy J. Souder of Garrett, Ind.; and three daughters, Tana and Dugan Hoffmann of Fort Wayne, Carla and Dave Placencia of Kendallville and Bailee Souder of Garrett. He is also survived by his two grandsons, Austin and Xander Hoffmann of Fort Wayne, and four granddaughters, Jillian Hoffmann of Fort Wayne, Erin Heyman of Butler and Amber Placencia and Ashlie Placencia, both of Kendallville; six great-grandchildren; a sister, Barbara Workman, Vista, Calif.; a sister-in-law, Linda Bacon of Kokomo; and his mother-in-law, Anita Bacon of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James N. Souder and Alice M. Hedges.

Visitation will be from 2-7 p.m. Saturday, November 7, 2009, at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett, Ind.

There will be no services.

Burial will take place at Cedar Creek Cemetery at Garrett.

Memorials are to Parkinson's Research or Push America — Raising Disability Awareness.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting: www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Jack Frehse

KENDALLVILLE — Jack Henry Frehse, age 81, of Kendallville, died on Friday, November 6, 2009, at Lutheran Life Villages in Kendallville.

Mr. Frehse was born in Noble County, Indiana, on July 25, 1928, to the late Lowell Lester and Henrietta Pauline (Runge) Frehse.

He married JoAnna Ruth Rogers on February 25, 1950, in Kendallville. She preceded his death February 13, 1997.

Mr. Frehse

Jack was the parts manager for Hilkert & Pankop Dodge and Bodigan Chrysler-Plymouth and Dodge, both in Kendallville, for more than 40 years.

He was a member of the St. John Lutheran Church and the Elk's Lodge, both in Kendallville.

Jack loved to play golf and bowl.

Survivors include a son, Dennis and Judy Frehse of Wolcottville; a daughter, Jacqueline and Brad Park of Goshen; four grandchildren, Justin Frehse of Avilla, Kristie Myers of Waterloo, Kyle Park of Brownsburg, Indiana, and Kevin Park of Goshen; three great-grandchildren, Kassandra Myers and Brady and Paige Park; and a brother, William Frehse of Orlando, Florida.

Visitation will be Sunday, November 8, 2009, from 1-4 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Monday, November 9, 2009, at 2 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home.

Officiating the funeral service will be Rev. Paul B. Griebel.

Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Preferred memorials may be made to St. John Lutheran Church or Lutheran Life Villages.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

John Hood

AUBURN — John P. Hood, 59, died Friday, Nov. 6, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

No funeral services are planned.

Calling will be Monday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

The family requests that no flowers be sent but any memorials be given to John's favorite charities, Police and Fire Benevolent Fund or Youth for Christ.

Robert Kimpel

LAGRANGE — Robert L. Kimpel, 68, of LaGrange died Friday, Nov. 6, 2009, at his residence.

Mr. Kimpel lived most of his lifetime in LaGrange County.

He worked as a machinist at Burr Oak Tool and Gauge in Sturgis, Mich., from 1976-2001.

Mr. Kimpel was a member of the LaGrange First Church of God.

He was a United States Army veteran.

Mr. Kimpel

He was born Sept. 24, 1941, in Corunna, Ind., to Lowell and Kathleen (Robbins) Kimpel. He married Mary E. Troyer on June 11, 1966, in LaGrange. She survives in LaGrange.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Claudia and Charles Flores of San Antonio, Texas, and Carmen and Erik Pearson of LaGrange; four grandchildren; his father, Lowell Kimpel of Angola; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Diane and Carl Root and Carolyn and Rick Moore all of Kendallville, and Deborah and James Kaough of Wolcottville; and four brothers and sisters-in-law, James and Judy Kimpel and David and Diane Kimpel all of LaGrange, John and Wendy Kimpel of Warsaw, and Larry and Rosita Kimpel of Orlando, Fla.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Kathleen Kimpel.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the LaGrange First Church of God, 777 N. Detroit St., LaGrange, with Rev. Brian VanOsdol officiating. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery in LaGrange.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at Frurip-May Funeral Home, 309 W. Michigan St., LaGrange.

Memorials are to LaGrange First Church of God Missions, LaGrange County Cancer Society or Parkview Home Health and Hospice.

Memorials may be left for the family at www.frurip mayfuneralhome.com.

Joyce Koch

AUBURN — Joyce A. Koch, 57, of Auburn, passed away after her courageous three-year battle with multiple myeloma on Friday, Nov. 6, 2009 at her parents' home surrounded by her family.

Ms. Koch

She was born on Feb. 8, 1952, in Van Wert, Ohio.

Joyce was a graduate of DeKalb High School and received her Bachelor of Arts degree from IPFW. She was currently employed as a transcriptionist at DeKalb Memorial Hospital for the last 14 years and had previously worked in the accounting department at the Auburn Foundry for five years, Dioceses of Fort Wayne-South Bend, U.S. Postal Service Remote Encoding Center and Mutual Securities Life Insurance Company for 20 years.

She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

Joyce enjoyed the company of her nieces and nephews. Her hobbies were sewing, gardening, fishing, cooking and reading.

Surviving are her parents, Vitus and Ruth (Minick) Koch of Auburn; brothers and sisters-in-law, Stephen and Debra Koch of Spencerville, Anthony Koch and his companion, Kathy Patton, of Auburn and William and Alicia Koch of Auburn; a sister, Maureen Koch of Auburn; and many nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday, with visiting one hour prior, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. 7th St., Auburn.

Connie Richards

KENDALLVILLE — Connie Louise Richards, age 49, of Kendallville died on Thursday, November 5, 2009, at home.

Mrs. Richards was born in Angola on April 12, 1960, to Richard DeWayne and Sharon Ann Kunce.

Mrs. Richards

She married Ronald Lee Richards on March 10, 1978, at the Cedar Lake Church of the Brethren near Corunna. Connie was a supervisor at Dana Corporation in Albion for 13 years.

Survivors include: her husband, Ron Richards of Kendallville; son, Jason and Jennifer Richards of Auburn daughter, Jenna and Dennis Easterday of Kendallville; one granddaughter, Dasia Richards; parents, Richard and Sharon Kunce of Kendallville; sisters, Marcia and Terry McKee of Hudson and Karen and Don Bish of Brimfield; grandmother, Louise Pepple of Corunna; and father and mother-in-law, Larry and Pat Richards of Kendallville.

She was preceded in death by her grandfathers, Lincoln Pepple and Clair Kunce

Visiting also Sunday from 1-5 p.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery, Auburn.

Visitation will be Sunday, November 8, 2009, from 3-7 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Monday, November 9, 2009, at 11 a.m. at Hite Funeral Home.

Officiating the funeral service will be Pastor Jim Kane.

Burial will be at Orange Cemetery near Rome City.

Casketbearers will be Dan Moore, Don Bish, the Bryant brothers, Chuck Kunce, Terry McKee and Tyler McKee.

Preferred memorials may be made to the Richards family or to cancer research.

View a video tribute by Sunday or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Memorials are Masses or to International Myeloma Foundation.

To sign the guest book or leave a condolence, visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

Keith Fee

MOORPARK, Calif. — Keith E. Fee, 71, of Moorpark, Calif., and formerly of Garrett, died Oct. 26, 2009, at his home.

Mr. Fee

He was born Jan. 8, 1938, in Garrett, to John A. and Mabel (Houlton) Fee.

After graduating from Garrett High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After serving four years in the Navy, he pursued a career in computers.

He was a member of the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Semi Valley. Calif., and was a member of a bowling league in Moorpark.

Surviving are his wife, Dorothy Fee of Moorpark, children and spouses, Paula and Eric VanDuser of Northridge, Calif., Steven Vazquez, Tony Vasquezand Diane and Ephraim Gutierrez, all of California, Wayne Pierret and Brian Pierret; 11 grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Dale and Anne Fee of Lansing, Mich., and Bob and Coleen Fee of Waterloo; and three sisters and a brother-in-law, Maxine Musser of Auburn, Margaret and Ralph Ford of Auburn and Twyla Hutsell of Naples, Fla.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, John L. Fee and Billy D. Fee, and a sister, Ida Mae Frain.

Services took place Sunday, Nov. 1, in Moorpark.

A memorial service will take place at a later date in Waterloo.

THE EVENING STAR
November 8 2009 Auburn, Indiana

A library for the children

Coralyn Greenfield helped create kids' own department

BY JENNY KOBIELA-MONDOR
jennyk@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Children who love to visit Eckhart Public Library have Coralyn Greenfield to thank for helping get them their own space.

"She enjoyed the children," said Sirleine Smith, a librarian who worked with Greenfield. "She was always willing to help, and was there when the children needed her. She just associated with the children well."

Greenfield died Thursday, Oct. 29, at the age of 86.

After working at Rieke Corp. in the early 1940s, Greenfield became a librarian at Eckhart Public Library and stayed there for 25 years. She retired in 1984, but her influence still lives at the library in the children's department, which she helped found.

"She was gracious and enthusiastic about discussing library programming and events, especially those related to the children's department at Eckhart Public Library," wrote current library director Janelle Graber, who visited with Greenfield often. "Her contribution as co-founder of the Eckhart Public Library's children's department was significant, and that legacy lives on."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Coralyn Greenfield, center, poses near Eckhart Public Library of Auburn with her family in 1962. Greenfield helped found the Children's Department at the library. From left are her mother, Cora Leas; her father, Ralph Leas; Coralyn Greenfield; her husband, Edwin Greenfield; and her son, David Greenfield.

Greenfield saw potential in a storage area in the basement of the Eckhart Public Library, said her son, David Greenfield. At the time, the "children's department" at the library was a table and a few bookcases on the first floor, he said.

"I think it was in the summertime that we went down and cleaned a lot of that up," he said. "It was a big improvement. They had their own space that way. They weren't bothering adults who were trying to read the newspaper."

Coralyn Greenfield then managed the children's department until she retired.

"She had concern for the children. A lot of the kids went to our church," the Auburn Presbyterian Church, David Greenfield said. "She'd worked in a factory, and she didn't like that, so I think it was a different thing for her to try, and she was good at it. With no training or college or anything, she picked it up rather quickly and enjoyed doing it and helping out the children as an educator."

Greenfield also enjoyed square dancing, her son said. She and her husband, Edwin, whom she married in 1943, spent more than 20 years in various square dancing clubs. The pair also enjoyed traveling and enjoyed vacations to many places, including Hawaii, Mackinac Island, the Great Smoky Mountains and the American West.

Coralyn Greenfield loved her job and went above and beyond, David Greenfield said. He said she would work from 3:30-7:30 p.m. each day, then would take him with her after work to collect overdue book fees from people who owed money to the library.

"Some of these people didn't have the money or whatever, but she would still be persistent in trying to collect the money, even though she wasn't on the clock," he said. "To maintain the library, you had to pay the fees if you couldn't get the books back on time."

"She took the children on walks downtown," Smith said. "She would have parties for the children in the children's department. You just knew she was there, and she was very conscientious of her job, and she loved it and she showed her joy. It was a pleasure working with her."

THIS OBITUARY *is being republished to correct errors in information submitted to the newspaper.*

Connie Richards

KENDALLVILLE — Connie Louise Richards, age 49, of Kendallville died on Thursday, November 5, 2009, at home.

Mrs. Richards was born in Angola on April 12, 1960, to Richard DeWayne and Sharon Ann Kunce.

She married Ronald Lee Richards on March 10, 1979, at the Cedar Lake Church of the Brethren near Corunna. Connie was a supervisor at Dana Corporation in Albion for 13 years.

Survivors include: her husband, Ron Richards of Kendallville; son, Jason and Jennifer Richards of Auburn; daughter, Jenna and Dennis Easterday of Kendallville; one granddaughter, Dasia Richards; parents, Richard and Sharon Kunce of Kendallville; sisters, Marcia and Terry McKee of Hudson and Karen and Don Bish of Brimfield; grandmother, Louise Pepple of Corunna; and father and mother-in-law, Larry and Pat Richards of Kendallville.

Mrs. Richards

She was preceded in death by her grandfathers, Lincoln Pepple and Clair Kunce.

Visitation will be today, November 8, 2009, from 3-7 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Funeral services will be Monday, November 9, 2009, at 11 a.m. at Hite Funeral Home.

Officiating the funeral service will be Pastor Jim Kane.

Burial will be at Orange Cemetery near Rome City.

Casketbearers will be Dan Moore, Don Bish, the Bryan brothers, Chuck Kunce, Terry McKee and Tyler McKee.

Preferred memorials may be made to the Richards family or to cancer research.

View a video tribute by Sunday or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

John Hood

AUBURN — John P. Hood, 59, died Friday, Nov. 6, 2009, at Parkview Memorial Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Hood

John was born Nov. 6, 1950, in Auburn to Paul Henry Jr. and Josephine Mary (Weaver) Hood; they have both passed away.

He worked at the Auburn Foundry, then, after they closed, he worked for Metal Technologies. He was a member of the St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

He is survived by three sisters, Cynthia Warstler and her fiance; John Crager of Auburn, Diana Raney of Bradenton, Fla., and Sylvia and Gus Widmeyer of Auburn; six nieces and nephews, Erica (Kyle) Zuniga, Rachel (David) Inmon, Todd (Dede) Warstler, Matt (Mitzi) Warstler, Andrew Warstler, Heather Raney; one great-niece and seven great-nephews.

No funeral services are planned. Calling will be 3 to 8 p.m. today, Monday, Nov. 9, 2009, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 South Center Street, Auburn, Ind. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn. The family requests that no flowers be sent but any memorials be given to John's favorite charities, Police and Fire Benevolent Fund or Youth for Christ Fast Start. How very fitting that John leaves this earth on the same day God placed him on this earth 59 years ago.

Odessie Shultz

GARRETT — Odessie A. Shultz, 89 of Garrett, died on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009 at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

She was born Feb. 13, 1920 in Crawfton, Mich. to Franklin and Hazel (Snyder) Reinoehl.

She married Henry Alva Shultz on Feb. 25, 1939. He died Nov. 26, 1967.

Odessie worked at Electric Motors in Garrett and at Essex Wire in Ligonier until her retirement in 1982. She also was a caregiver for many people.

She was a member of the Garrett Nazarene Church for over 50 years.

She is survived by two daughters, Barbara High and Brenda Cook of Garrett; two sons and daughters-in-law, Rick and Patty Shultz of Garrett, and Keith and Mary Shultz of Churubusco; a sister, Blanchie Shultz of Huntertown; 13 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; a son, Robert A. Shultz; two brothers, four sisters, one grandson and one great-grandson.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 10 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett.

The funeral will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. at the funeral home with Pastor Kent Wright officiating. Burial will follow in Eel River Cemetery.

Memorials are to the family to assist with funeral expenses.

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook visit thomasfuneralhome.org

Elaine Shultz

FORT WAYNE — Elaine Clara Shultz, 82, passed away at home Saturday, November 7, 2009, in Fort Wayne.

She was born in Chicago to Leslie & Pauline (Wosch) Hollihan who preceded her in death.

Mrs. Shultz

She graduated from Indiana University receiving her Bachelor of Science degree and did post graduate studies at IUPU.

Elaine worked as an office manager with Clifford J. Shultz, M.D., for 14 years, retiring in 1994.

Elaine was an elementary teacher for 12 years in Hammond and Auburn.

She was a member of the Auburn Ladies Literary Club, Fort Wayne Country Club, Fort Wayne Art League, Art Guild of Fort Wayne and The Learned Society.

She served as a Gray Lady with the American Red Cross at Landsthuhl Army Hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, from 1952 until 1953.

She is survived by her husband of 34 years, Clifford J. Shultz M.D., of Fort Wayne; a son, Patrick W. Ball of Indianapolis; a daughter, Jennifer (Michael) Fahlsing of Fort Wayne; a stepson, Clifford J. Shultz II, Ph.D., and his wife Katherine of Wheaton, Ill.; a stepdaughter, Marilyn K. Shultz of Atlanta, Ga.; her grandchildren, Leslie (Michael) Cryderman of Huntington, Andrew and Stephanie Fahlsing of Fort Wayne and Matthew Shultz of Wheaton, Ill.; and a sister, Evelyn (Thomas) Sanford of Doylestown, Pa.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009, at First Presbyterian Church, 300 W Wayne St., Fort Wayne, with calling one hour prior to services with the Rev. Dr. John Stephen Park officiating.

Additional calling will be on Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2009, from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at D.O. McComb and Sons Covington Knolls Funeral Home, 8325 Covington Road.

Private family interment will be held at a later date.

Preferred memorials may be made to the S.P.C.A..

To sign the online guest book, go to www.mccombandsons.com.

Wayne Rowe

GARRETT — Wayne E. "Butch" Rowe, 69, of Garrett died Monday, November 9, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Rowe was a retired plumber and pipe fitter for the Local Union 166, retiring in 2003.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force serving during the Vietnam War.

He was a member of the Garrett American Legion, Garrett Eagles, Garrett Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Kendallville Elks.

He was born on June 9, 1940, in Auburn to Willis and Gladys (Zinn) Rowe. They both preceded him in death.

He married Sharon Roush on Dec. 8, 1959, in Coldwater, Michigan. She passed away on July 8, 2003.

Surviving are three sons, Jeffrey "Rocky" Rowe of Garrett, Willis Rowe of Garrett and Todd Rowe of Garrett; two daughters, Tina Custer of Garrett and Reene Rowe of Garrett; his companion, Marcia Smith of Adams Lake; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Donald and Kay Rowe of Angola and Willis Rowe of Crawfordsville; one sister, Mary Ann Magginis of Chicago, Illinois; four grandchildren, Logan Rowe, Lincoln Rowe, Hunter Rowe and Jeremiah Whitacre; and one great-grandchild, Talon Rowe.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor Greg Campbell officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to DeKalb Memorial Home Health and Hospice.

Thomas Messmann

WATERLOO — Thomas R. Messmann, 60, died Monday, November 9, 2009, at his home in Waterloo.

He was born June 9, 1949, in Auburn to Lewis and Blanche (Keller) Messmann. His father is deceased and his mother survives in Waterloo.

He is a U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran and a lifetime member of the Waterloo VFW.

Mr. Messmann

He enjoyed camping and fishing.

He is survived by his mother; a daughter and son-in-law, Shannon and Ryan Baxla of Fremont; a brother, Ron Messmann of Waterloo; a brother-in-law; Ray Henderson Sr. of Pleasant Lake; four grandsons, Nickolas Reffeitt, Lucas Baxla, Cole Baxla and Logan Baxla; and also several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father; a brother, Roger Messmann; and a sister, Elaina Henderson.

Services will be at 7 p.m. Friday, November 13, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, IN. The Rev. Randy Marshall will officiate.

Calling is Friday from 4 to 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials may be directed to the Waterloo VFW or Fremont Moose.

Wayne Rowe

GARRETT — Wayne E. "Butch" Rowe, 69, of Garrett died Monday, November 9, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Rowe was a retired plumber and pipe fitter for the Local Union 166, retiring in 2003.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force serving during the Vietnam War.

He was a member of the Garrett American Legion, Garrett Eagles, Garrett Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Kendallville Elks.

He was born on June 9, 1940, in Auburn to Willis and Gladys (Zinn) Rowe. They both preceded him in death.

He married Sharon Roush on Dec. 8, 1959, in Coldwater, Michigan. She passed away on July 8, 2003.

Surviving are three sons, Jeffrey "Rocky" Rowe of Garrett, Willis Rowe of Garrett and Todd Rowe of Garrett; two daughters, Tina Custer of Garrett and Reene Rowe of Garrett; his companion, Marcia Smith of Adams Lake; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Donald and Kay Rowe of Angola and Willis Rowe of Crawfordsville; one sister, Mary Ann Magginis of Chicago, Illinois; four grandchildren, Logan Rowe, Lincoln Rowe, Hunter Rowe and Jeremiah Whitacre; and one great-grandchild, Talon Rowe.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor Nathan Powell officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett with military graveside services conducted by the U.S. Air Force and the Garrett American Legion.

Jack Miller

ANGOLA — Jack D. Miller, 77, of Angola and Avon Park, Fla., died Friday, Nov. 6, 2009, in Avon Park.

Mr. Miller had owned Two Brothers VW Sales.

He was a U.S. Army veteran.

He was born June 24, 1932, in Steuben County to Jack and Vera (Lonsbury) Miller. He married Mary Lou Anspaugh and she preceded him in death on Oct. 17, 2005.

Surviving are two sons, Darrell Miller and Dan Miller, both of Angola; a daughter, Debby Taylor Dominique and her husband, Dan Dominique, of Auburn; two brothers, Gerald Miller of Avon Park and Shirley Miller of Angola; three sisters, LaDonna Haskins of Okeechobee, Fla., Geraldine Rowe of Angola and Twilith Wray of Fort Wayne; and three grandchildren.

There are no services.

Calling will be from 1-3 p.m. Sunday at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola.

Memorials are to the Steuben County Cancer Association.

Calling will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to DeKalb Memorial Home Health and Hospice.

Rebecca Sleeper

AUBURN — Rebecca I. (Haught) Sleeper, 68, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2009, at her home in rural Auburn.

She was born on December 16, 1940, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, to the late Thomas and Mildred (Chandler) Haught.

Mrs. Sleeper

She married Richard W. Sleeper on October 3, 1981, in Garrett, Indiana.

Surviving are her husband, Richard W. Sleeper of Auburn, Ind.; daughters, Patti (Kleber) Taylor (Troy Taylor) of Garrett, Ind., Susan Chisholm of Garrett, Ind., and Jennifer Plott (Randy) Burkhalter of Prattville, Alabama; a stepson, Ron (Linda) Sleeper of Auburn, Ind.; stepdaughters, Deb (Dave) Cornell of Auburn, Ind., and Jennifer "Sis" Sleeper of Auburn, Ind.; 13 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a brother, Edward A. Haught of Florida.

She was preceded in death by a son, Daniel Edward Kleber, on August 27, 1993, and a grandson, Jack Turner Plott.

Becky graduated from North Side High School in 1959 and later from Fort Wayne Business College.

She worked as a secretary for Harvester and Thompson Caterpillar.

She was a member of Hopewell United Brethren Church in Auburn, Ind., Jackson Homemakers Club and the Master Gardeners Program.

She enjoyed her family, holidays, quilting, gardening and camping.

Calling will be held from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13, at Hopewell United Brethren Church, 6852 C.R. 35, Auburn.

Services will be held on Saturday, Nov. 14, at 10 a.m., at the church, with Pastor John Erwin officiating. Calling will also be one hour prior to the service at the church.

Burial will be in South Milford Cemetery at South Milford, Ind.

Memorials are to Hopewell United Brethren Church Missions or the Building Fund, 6852 C.R. 35, Auburn, IN 46706.

Arrangements are by Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville, Ind.

Delores Putman

FORT WAYNE — Delores J. Putman, 75, passed away Wednesday, November 11, 2009, at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Born in Jackson Township, Ind., she was a hair dresser and the owner of Scizzors Salon. She also owned Christy's Liquors in Auburn.

Mrs. Putman

Mrs. Putman had been a Realtor in Angola.

She was a member of the Moose Lodge in Angola.

She is survived by her daughter, Kellie Chambers of Fort Wayne; sons, Gary L. (Terri) Baird of Newburgh, Steve (Marie) Baird of Elkhart and David A. Baird of Bremerton, WA.; her grandchildren, Taylor Chambers, Michael Baird, Shelley Wheat, Shannon Hemenway, Travis Baird, Kara Baird, and Margo, Amie and Jamie Baird; 10 great-grandchildren; and brothers, Darwin Baker and Richard (Margaret) Baker, both of Fort Wayne. Delores was preceded in death by her parents, Harold and Florence Baker, and a sister, Phyllis Nusbaum.

Service is at 5 p.m. Sunday at D.O. McComb and Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 East Dupont Road, with calling from 1 to 5 p.m. prior to service.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

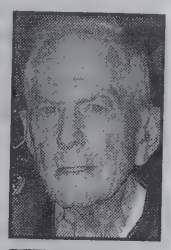
To sign the online guest book, go to www.mccombandsons.com.

Robert Dygert

ANGOLA — Robert J. Dygert, 83, of Angola and formerly of Waterloo died Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2009, at his home.

Mr. Dygert was a general line supervisor for NIPSCO of Angola and Waterloo for 36 years, retiring in 1983.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy serving during World War II in the submarine corps.


Mr. Dygert

He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Waterloo. He was also a member and past president of the Waterloo Lions Club, a former member of the Waterloo Volunteer Fire Department for several years, a member of the Waterloo and Angola Masonic Lodges, Fort Wayne Scottish Rite, and the Fort Wayne Shrine Club.

He had served on the Waterloo Grant Township School Board and the DeKalb Central School Board.

He was born Feb. 21, 1926, in Steuben County to Olen Hall and Alice (Rozell) Dygert. He married Evelyn Earl on Oct. 8, 1949, in Garrett. She survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Rochelle M. Dygert of Angola and Renee R. and Mark Van Wagner of Angola; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Robert G. and Debra Dygert of Angol and Richard L. Dygert of Dublin, Ohio; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Charles and Phyllis Dygert of Angola and Olin Dean and Joann Dygert of Battle Creek, Mich.; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, David O. Dygert; and a daughter-in-law, Bridget Dygert.

There will be no calling or services.

Memorials may be directed to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, 1359 Broadway, Suite 1509, New York, NY 10018.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo is handling arrangements.

Frank Lewis

ORLAND — Frank W. Lewis, 80, of Orland died Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Lewis had farmed his own land.

He was born Feb. 19, 1929, in Steuben County to Clyde and Ellen (Weldon) Lewis. They preceded him in death.

His wife, Dorothy M. (Laughry) Lewis, also preceded him in death.

Surviving are a son, Tim and Misty Lewis of LaGrange; two brothers, Gene Lewis of Orland and Keith and Betty Lewis of Orland; a sister, Marilyn and Allan Hackett of Angola; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, Jon Lewis, and a sister, Martha Lewis.

Memorial services will be at 3 p.m. Sunday at Orland Congregational Church in Orland with the Rev. Mark Emelander officiating.

Memorials are to the family in care of Tim Lewis.

Weicht Funeral Home in Angola is in charge of arrangements.

Frank Smyth

BUTLER — Frank Smyth, 59, died Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009, at his home.

Mr. Smyth was a farmer and truck driver.

He graduated from Hamilton High School and served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam.

He was born on Dec. 13, 1949, in Butler to Lemuel and Rosie (Schrader) Smyth. He married Jill Possehn on Sept. 18, 1987, in Auburn. She survives.

Mr. Smyth

Also surviving are two daughters Tonya and Doug DePew of Auburn and Tabitha Essington and Mark Meinen of Hamilton; four grandsons, Ryan, Tim and Mason DePew and Dackotia Reed; a grand-daughter, Taylor Meinen; a brother, Jim Smyth of Butler; and four sisters, Janet Krieger of Churubusco and Linda Blackburn, Jane Smyth and Mag Upp, all of Butler.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother Charley.

Funeral services for Frank Smyth will be Saturday at 2 p.m. at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with calling from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Burial will be at a later date in Hamilton Cemetery.

Preferred memorials are to the family.

THE EVENING STAR

November 14 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Charles Brumbaugh

FREMONT — Charles J. "Bud" Brumbaugh, 85, of Fremont died Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Brumbaugh was a welder at American Hoist and Derrick for 43 years.

Mr. Brumbaugh

He was a member of Angola Church of the Nazarene.

Mr. Brumbaugh served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the South Pacific.

He was born Aug. 30, 1924, in Fort Wayne to Charles W. and Margaret (Bowers) Brumbaugh. He married Pauline T. Fogle on Aug. 14, 1942, in Fort Wayne.

He is survived by his wife, Pauline T. Brumbaugh of Fremont; three sons, B. Dean Brumbaugh of Brutus, Mich., Randall and DeAnn Brumbaugh of Fort Wayne and Bryan and Marsha Brumbaugh of Fort Wayne; three daughters, Sandra and Glenn Kump of Waterloo, Linda and Donald Bane of Richmond and Crystal and Bob Flagg of Mulica Hill, N.J.; a brother, Harry and Wilma Brumbaugh of Angola; four sisters, Ruth Dirig of Fort Wayne, Margaret Manges of Corunna, Phyllis RockVam of Las Vegas, Nev., and Julia Puckett of Circleville, Ohio; 17 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, George Brumbaugh; and a sister, Pauline Felger.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at the Garrett Church of the Nazarene with Pastor Randy Marshall officiating. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens with military graveside services.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Sunday at Thomas Funeral Home and one hour prior to the service at the church.

Memorials are to the Disabled American Veterans.

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

THE EVENING STAR
November 15 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Robert Poorman

GARRETT — Robert L. Poorman, 73, died Friday, Nov. 13, 2009, at his home in Garrett.

Services for Mr. Poorman will be Tuesday at 4 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 875 South Wayne Street Waterloo.

Calling is at 2-4 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to VA Northern Indiana Health Care System c/o Feller and Clark Funeral Home.

Robert Price

AUBURN — Robert T. Price, 79, of Auburn died Friday, November 13, 2009, at 1:09 a.m. at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Price retired from Dana Corp. of Fort Wayne and also from farming.

He was a veteran of the United States Army.

He was born November 9, 1930, in Parker, Indiana, to Herman and Clara Price. They preceded him in death.

He married Georgia "Jo" Masters on July 1, 1950, in Windsor, in Randolph County, Indiana. He lost the love of his life after 52 years of marriage on November 13, 2002.

Survivors are three sons, Robert T. Price Jr. of Auburn, Donald E. Price and his wife, Linda, of Waterloo, and Philip L. Price Sr. and wife, Helen, of Garrett; one daughter, Julia A. Rice and her husband, Tim, of Auburn; nine grandchildren, Aaron Price, Ryan Price, Bobbie Jo Baer, Riley Price, Philip Price Jr., Tracy Price, Joshua Price, Tasha Albright and Lisa Rice; seven great-grandchildren, Gabriel Price, Seth Price, Cadence Price, Jordan Baer, Dylan Raymond, Elizabeth Raymond and Maelee Kimmel; and one sister, Margaret Gallets of Portland.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Herman Price Jr. and Charles Price; and three sisters, Helen Price, Maxine Steakley and Edna Clevenger.

Services were held Monday with the Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating. Burial was in Christian Union Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Society.

Arrangement were handled by Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo.

Terry Bailey Sr.

KINGMAN, Ariz.— Terry Wayne Bailey Sr., 54, of Kingman, Ariz., and formerly of Orland, Ind., was called upon by his heavenly Father on Sunday, November 15, 2009, at approximately 3:45 a.m. at his home after recently being diagnosed with lung cancer. At his side was his loving wife, Jackie, and cousin, Robert Gentz.

Terry remained positive through his illness.

He was born on December 9, 1954, in Wauseon, Ohio, to Richard W. (deceased) and Joyce M. Bailey of Delta, Ohio.

He married Jackie Lynn Shoemaker of Swanton, Ohio, on June 13, 1973. Together they had two children, Terry W. Bailey Jr., 35, of Butler, Ind., and Angel M. Lepley, 33, of Hudson, Ind.

Terry was a very dedicated and hard working man, loving father and the most amazing husband.

He was a longtime employee of Metaldyne, formerly Simpson Industries, in Edon, Ohio, from 1985 to 2001. Before moving to Arizona one year ago, Terry continued his employment at Angola Wire in Angola, Ind., from 2002-2008.

Terry is preceded in death by his father and grandparents.

Terry is survived by his loving wife and best friend of 36 years, Jackie of Kingman, Ariz.; his son, Terry Bailey Jr. and daughter-in-law, Crystal, of Butler, Ind.; his daughter, Angel Lepley and son-in-law, Travis, of Hudson, Ind.; his grandchildren, Katelyn Harvey and Kara and Kelsey Bailey of Butler, Ind., Dominique Swiatkowski and Brittney, Jayson, Travis and Treyten Lepley of Hudson, Ind.; his sister, LuAnne Surgeson and brother-in-law, Lennie, of Holland, Ohio; his brother, Jimmy Bailey and sister-in-law, Bonnie, of Wauseon, Ohio; his mother and father-in-law, Ronald Sr. and Shirley Shoemaker of Kingman, Ariz., and formerly of Swanton, Ohio; his brother-in-law, Ronald Jr. and sister-in-law, Brenda, of Delta, Ohio; brother-in-law, Edward Shoemaker and sister-in-law, Brenda of Pomona, Calif.; and many other family members and friends.

Terry's wishes are for his body to be donated to science to further find a cure for cancer. He will then be cremated and his ashes spread over the mountains as he wished.

A celebration of Terry's life will be held at his home in Kingman, Ariz., on November 28, 2009, from 1-5 p.m. Also an open house will be held at a later date in Indiana.

The family is requesting those wishing to make a contribution in Terry's memory consider KRMC Hospice in Kingman, Ariz., in care of Jackie Bailey and/or to his wife Jackie, as she has been caring for Terry solely throughout his diagnosed cancer. Please send all contributions to 221 E. Spring St., Kingman, AZ 86401 and they will be forwarded.

THE EVENING STAR
November 19 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Berniece Sholl

BUTLER — Berniece Marian Sholl, 90, of Hicksville, Ohio, and formerly of Butler, Ind. died Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009, at Chandler House assisted living facility in Kendallville following a brief illness.

Funeral services will be at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at Smith & Brown Funeral Home, 706 N. Main St., Hicksville, Ohio. Burial will be in Lost Creek Cemetery in Hicksville.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Oriental Missionary Society or the Christian & Missionary Alliance Missions.

Online condolences may be shared at www.smithandbrownfuneralhome.com.

A full obituary will appear in Friday's edition.

Dennis Frasier

LITCHFIELD, Mich. — Dennis Earl Frasier, 52, of Litchfield died unexpectedly on Monday, Nov. 16, 2009, in Saranac, Mich.

Mr. Frasier was a 1976 graduate of Fremont, Ind., High School.

He was a truck driver for P&B Trucking Co. in Decatur, Ind. He had also worked for 10 years for the Indiana State Highway Department and for 20 years at Weatherhead-Dana in Angola, Ind.

He was born July 26, 1957, in Saginaw, Mich., to Earl and Mary (Lee) Frasier. He married Sherry LaRoe on Sept. 4, 1999. She survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Tonya England of Angola, Ind., and Shelly and Dan Gilbert of Butler, Ind.; two sons and daughters-in-law, Dennis II and Liz Frasier II of Ashley, Ind., and Steve and Angel England of Litchfield; a sister, Deborah Frasier of Texas; his twin brother and his wife Daniel and Regina Frasier of Fremont, Ind.; 13 grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; his father-in-law, Robert LaRoe of Litchfield; his grandfather, Howard Warner of Homer, Mich., and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his father; his mother; his stepfather John Lyons; a son Wesley Frasier; a sister Darlene Frasier; and his mother-in-law, Barbara LaRoe.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. today at the George White Funeral Home, 220 N. Chicago St., Litchfield. Calling will be from 11 a.m. today until time of the service.

Interment in King Cemetery, Pulaski Township, will be at a later date.

Berniece Sholl

BUTLER — Berniece Marian Sholl, 90, formerly of Butler, Ind., passed away Wednesday, November 18, 2009, at Chandler House assisted living facility in Kendallville, Ind., following a brief illness. She had resided there since February 2008.

She was born on March 16, 1919, in Hicksville, Ohio, the daughter of Fred and Bertha (Dickerhoff) Rohrs.

On September 5, 1937, she was united in marriage to John H. Sholl in Hicksville, Ohio. Together they owned and operated a farm near Butler, Ind. He preceded her in death on December 24, 2000.

Berniece was a homemaker and avid gardener.

She was a member of the Christian & Missionary Alliance Church. She was actively involved in church service for many years, teaching Sunday school classes, decorating the church and entertaining pastors, evangelists, missionaries and church visitors on a regular basis. She had a passion for missionaries and found creative ways to remember their names and work. Above all, she was known for her strong, unwavering Christian testimony and for being a prayer warrior. She will be greatly missed.

She is survived by five children, Elaine (Larry) Moughler of Butler, Ind., Dwight (Phillis) Sholl of Sturgis, Mich., Carolyn (Nolan) Ferrier of Broadview Heights, Ohio, Marlene Embry of Fort Wayne, Ind., and Rev. Keith (Dolores) Sholl of Sylvania, Ohio; 16 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; a sister, Vera Hubaker of Safety Harbor, Fla.; a brother, the Rev. Donald (Faythe) Rohrs of Fort Wayne; and many nieces, nephew and friends.

Preceding her in death were her parents; her husband; an adult child, Victor Sholl; and brothers, Robert L. Rohrs, Duane H. Rohrs and George A. Rohrs.

The family will receive friends today from 4-8 p.m. at Smith & Brown Funeral Home, 706 N. Main St., Hicksville, Ohio.

Services will be held Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at the funeral home. The Rev. Keith Sholl and the Rev. Don Rohrs will officiate. Burial will be in the Lost Creek Cemetery at Hicksville, Ohio.

Memorials in the name of Berniece M. Sholl may be given to the Oriental Missionary Society or the Christian & Missionary Alliance Missions.

Online condolences may be shared at www.smithandbrownfuneralhome.com.

A. Carol Brandt

ARCOLA — A. Carol Brandt, 93, of Arcola died Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009, at Renaissance Village Nursing Home in Fort Wayne.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 a.m. Monday at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Arcola. Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-6 p.m. Sunday at DeMoney-Grimes Funeral Home in Columbia City with a rosary at 6 p.m. and one hour prior to the services Monday.

Memorials are to the Masses at St. Patrick's Catholic Church or to the Allen County Heart Association.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home in Auburn is assisting the family with arrangements.

Flora Hedglin

AUBURN — Flora E. Hedglin, 93, of Auburn and formerly of Pleasant Lake died Friday, Nov. 20, 2009, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

She was born in Arcadia, Ind., on March 19, 1916, to the late Thurman Porter and Roxie (Allman) Charles.

She was a teacher for 10 years in schools in Indiana and Ohio then in the Angola school system for 25 years. She was a member and taught Sunday school and was a strong supporter of the Pleasant Lake Baptist Church until her health kept her at home.

Mrs. Hedglin loved to garden and tend flowers and was active in several study groups.

She married LaGrand Hedglin in 1945 in Angola and he died in 1961.

She is survived by two sons and a daughter-in-law, Charles and Vicki Hedglin of Hazard, Ky., and Richard Hedglin of Pleasant Lake; a daughter and son-in-law, Roxana and Don Bentz of Auburn; a brother, Burdett Charles of Fort Wayne; four grandchildren, Angelica Hedglin of Pleasant Lake, Gina (John) Nepsa of Fishers, Andy Bentz of Auburn and Renee Bentz of Fort Wayne; four stepgrand-daughters; one great-granddaughter, Katrina Nepsa; and several stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband and a brother, Searle Charles.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday, November 23, 2009, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Auburn, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, Ind.

Burial will be in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Metz, Ind.

Calling is two hours prior to the service Monday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to Pleasant Lake Baptist Church.

Grace Morgan

FORT WAYNE — Grace A. (Brand) Morgan, 83, died Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009, at her home in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Morgan had owned and operated Hen House Beauty Salon for 30 years, retiring in 1990. She also was a stylist part time at D.O. McComb & Sons Funeral Home for 15 years and worked part time at Lutheran Hospital.

Mrs. Morgan

She volunteered at both Parkview and Lutheran hospitals for many years.

A native of Ashley, she graduated from Ashley High School in 1941.

Surviving are two daughters, Yolanda (Carl) Kallsen and Diana (Mike) Calvert, both of Fort Wayne; two stepsons, Terry Morgan of Garrett and Rick Morgan of Bluffton; a step-daughter, Farren (Greg) Klopfenstein of Woodburn; 13 grandchil-dren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles O. and Ethel A. Brand; her husband of 17 years, Cecil L. Morgan; a stepson, Raymond Morgan; and six brothers, Willis, Leroy, Donald, Garl, Charles and Robert Brand.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Trinity Church of the Nazarene, 4150 Stellhorn Road, Fort Wayne. Entombment will be in Covington Memorial Gardens.

Calling will be from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday at D.O. McComb and Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, 1140 Lake Ave., and one hour prior to services Monday.

Memorials are to the Trinity Church of the Nazarene, 4150 Stellhorn Road, Fort Wayne.

To sign the online guest book, go to www.mccombandsons.com.

Duane Huff

BUTLER — Duane M. Huff, 68, of Butler died Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Huff worked for Eaton Corp. (Dana) for more than 27 years, retiring on April 1, 2000.

He was a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran.

Mr. Huff was a member of the Church of Christ in Newville, the UAW Local 164 and the Butler American Legion Post 202.

He was born Sept. 14, 1941, in Goshen to the late Donald M. and Evelyn I. (Doud) Huff. He married Elsie Dorsey Krontz on Dec. 23, 1976, at the Lutheran Church in Butler. She survives.

Also surviving are four sons and three daughters-in-law, Victor and Laura Krontz of Butler, Joseph Krontz of Angola, Alan and Jayne Krontz of Butler and Jerry and Nancy Krontz of Waterloo; a brother, Harold L. Huff of Auburn; a sister and brother-in-law, Patricia and Fred Surface of Butler; five grandchildren, including Keith Krontz of Edgerton and Danielle (Joe) Keb of Auburn; nine stepgrandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and seven stepgreat-grandchildren.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday, November 23, 2009, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, Ind. Darren Langford will officiate.

Burial will be in Butler Cemetery, Butler. Serving as pallbearers will be Joe Keb, Brian Koski, Brad Dangler, Brent Miller, Michael Wallace and John Wallace Jr.

Calling is Sunday from 2 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to American Heart Association, DeKalb County Humane Society or Lake James Christian Assembly.

Diane Miller

WATERLOO — Diane E. Miller, 64, of Waterloo died Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Miller worked for the U.S. Postal Service's REC in Fort Wayne. She retired July 31, 2009.

She was a member of the American Postal Workers Union.

Mrs. Miller

She was born Aug. 20, 1945, in Venice, Fla., to James C. and Laura (Whitfield) Williams. She married Melvin Miller in June 1966 in Oceanside, Calif., and he survives in Waterloo.

She is also survived by four sons and two daughters-in-law, Mike and Melanie Miller of Auburn, Jim Miller of Waterloo, Chris and Candy Miller of Butler and Don Miller of Waterloo; a daughter and son-in-law, Teresa and Bart George of Hamilton; a brother, James C. Williams of Waterloo; nine grandchildren; four stepgrandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Sunday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. The Rev. Lloyd Bickel will officiate. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery at Waterloo.

Calling will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

THE EVENING STAR
November 22 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Area businessman loved Rome City

BY JENNY KOBIELA-MONDOR
jennyk@kpcnews.net

ROME CITY — Harry Holsinger spent his life in business, but his heart was for Rome City.

Holsinger owned and operated the Holsinger Market grocery store in Rome City from 1940 to 1979, and leased the buildings for many area businesses, including Subway and Oak Tree Family Restaurant in Rome City, and the Family Dollar, Ace Hardware and Dari Point Restaurant in Ligoner.

Holsinger died Sunday, Nov. 15, at the age of 90.

"I think, basically, he was just part of Rome City forever, his whole life," daughter Karen Sue Richmond said.

Harry Holsinger was born in Rome City in 1919 and spent his life there. He met his wife, Lucille, at Rome City High School after she moved there from Fort Wayne as a sophomore. The couple married Sept. 17, 1939.

"They were married 70 years on the 16th of September," Richmond said. "They were partners in everything they did. Where you saw Dad, you usually saw Mom."

Harry Holsinger attended Purdue University with hopes of becoming an electrical engineer, Richmond said.

"He was so determined in his education," she said. "He hitchhiked back and forth to Purdue."

However, when his father Neil, a grocer, died of a heart attack, Harry and Lucille Holsinger took over the family store and operated it for 39 years. Harry Holsinger also worked at General Electric, and Lucille Holsinger would help run the grocery store and close up each night, said his daughter-in-law, Kathy Holsinger.

"Hand-in-hand, they worked very hard," she said. "He worked several jobs at a time."

Harry Holsinger also was a Noble County commissioner for three terms and a Rome City volunteer firefighter for 39 years. He was a member of the Rome City Lions Club and the Rome City United Methodist Church, too.

Mr. Holsinger

"He was strictly a people person," his son, Don Holsinger said. "He enjoyed helping people, but he didn't want to be recognized for that."

"He was very humble," Richmond said. "He didn't care where people came from or where they were. He was interested in their future. He didn't care what their social status was. That never mattered to my dad."

Harry and Lucille Holsinger also were world travelers. Through a food marketing organization, the couple were able to visit numerous places, including Africa and Russia, Kathy Holsinger said.

"He would show slides to anybody who wanted to see them," she said. "He took pictures and slides to my daughter's school one time. You name it, he was there."

After retirement, Harry Holsinger didn't slow down much. The Holsingers spent winters in Florida, where Harry Holsinger enjoyed golfing with his friends. When he was in Rome City, he would go over to the Oak Tree Family Restaurant, across the street from his house, every morning at 6 a.m. for coffee and debate with his friends.

"He was strictly a people person. He enjoyed helping people, but he didn't want to be recognized for that."

Don Holsinger
Describing his father, Harry

"They'd discuss what happened, what would happen, what the state of the world was," Richmond said. "Sometimes he'd go back over there in the afternoon, too."

But most important to Harry Holsinger was his family, which included three children, six grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

One granddaughter remembers Holsinger teaching her how to drive a stick-shift vehicle, Kathy Holsinger said, and a grandson remembers playing in the basement of the grocery store.

"When he was little, he remembers running around in the basement of the store, and they'd make tunnels out of the boxes and run through them," she said.

Even as he grew older, Harry Holsinger still tried to make it to family cookouts and picnics.

"He was elderly, getting up there, but he'd sure try to come," Kathy Holsinger said. "He thoroughly enjoyed it."

Harold Pepple

CORUNNA — Harold L. Pepple, 90, of Corunna, Ind., died at 9:10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 20, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, Auburn.

He was an engineer on the B & O Railroad for 45 years, retiring in 1983.

Mr. Pepple was a lifetime member of the Garrett Eagles and a member of the Garrett Masonic Lodge, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the National Rifle Association. He was a member of the Corunna Community Church.

Mr. Pepple

On May 3, 1919, he was born in Mishawaka, Ind. He married Ruth N. Kern on Nov. 16, 1940 in Auburn, and she preceded him in death on Dec. 22, 1995.

Surviving are three sons, H. Steven Pepple, Garrett, Daniel Pepple, Angola, and Jerry Pepple, Orland; a daughter, Janet Smart, Corunna; 13 grandchildren; and 25 great grandchildren.

A memorial graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, 2009, at Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett, with the Rev. Richard Pickard officiating.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Condolences may be sent or online register book signed at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Roger Schlatter

FORT WAYNE — Roger J. Schlatter, 66, passed away Thursday, November 19, 2009, at his home.

He was born October 29, 1943, to the late Clifford V. and Lucille (Yorkivich) Schlatter.

Mr. Schlatter

He is survived by his daughters, Regina (Virgil) Duke and Rebecca (Jeff) McCoy; his sons, Rex (Cynthia) Schlatter, Ricky (Nancy) Schlatter, Roger (Lani) Schlatter, Robert (Mary) Schlatter and Rodney Schlatter; his ex-wife and her husband, Roseann (Larry) Kinsey; a special friend, Linda; his brothers, Duane (Sue) Schlatter and Lynn Schlatter; his sisters, Donna (Robert) Young and Joanne (John) Steiren; his stepmother, Elizabeth Schlatter; his stepbrothers, Doug and Dick Kempf; and 12 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his grandson, Luke McCoy in 2001, and a stepbrother, James Kempf.

Funeral service is at 10 a.m. today, Tuesday, at D.O. McComb & Sons, Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Road, with calling one hour prior.

Pastor Jewel will officiate.

Additional calling was held Monday.

Burial will be in Highland Park Cemetery, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Memorials are to Lakewood Park Baptist Church in Auburn, Ind.

To sign the online guest book, go to www.mccombandsons.com.

Anita Depew

EDGERTON, Ohio — Anita L. Depew, 69, of Edgerton and formerly of Bryan, Ohio, and Garrett, Ind., died Sunday, Nov. 22, 2009, at her home.

She was employed for the Hicksville Dry Cleaners for seven years.

Mrs. Depew

She was also a singer for the Big Country Band.

She was born May 3, 1940, in Weston, W.Va., to Adrian N. and Mary L. (Graves) Thompson.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Robin L. and Mark Shockley of Edgerton, Ohio, and Christen D. and Brent Terry of Garrett; three sons and daughters-in-law, Harvey A. and Cheryl Depew of Butler, Clyde H. and Angie Depew of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Steve M. and Jennie Depew of Harlan; one brother and sister-in-law, Adrian N. Jr. and Mary Thompson of Garrett; 14 grandchildren; and five great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one son, Allen L. Depew.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor Max Begley officiating.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the Hospital Hospice and Home Health, 433 West High St., Bryan, Ohio 43506.

Virginia Davis

GARRETT — Virginia Davis, age 89, formerly of Garrett, Ind., died at 12:58 p.m. Monday, November 23, 2009, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla, Ind.

She was born December 17, 1919, in Garrett, Ind., to Nicholas and Johanna (Istrate) Fratila. She married John D. Davis on October 12, 1940, in Garrett, Ind., and he died in 1987.

Mrs. Davis

She was a homemaker and member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett, Ind.

Virginia is survived by two sons, David C. and Joanne Davis of Lake Pleasant, Bronson, Mich., and John M. and Phyllis Davis of Nevada Mills, Ind. She is also survived by three grandsons, Ernest Davis of Fort Wayne, Ind., Gregory and Tracy Davis of Garrett, Ind., and Steven and Sheila Davis of Cambridge, Ind.; and seven great-grandchildren, Zackary, Sierra and Sabrina Davis, all of Garrett and Corrina, Savannah, Chloe and Haley Davis, all of Cambridge, Ind.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Nicholas and Johanna Fratila; her husband, John D. Davis; and a son, Dennis Davis.

Calling will be from 3-5 p.m. Friday, November 27, 2009, at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett, Ind.

The services will take place at 1 p.m. Saturday, November 28, 2009, at Thomas Funeral Home, with Tom Novy officiating. Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett, Ind.

Memorials are to Provena Sacred Heart — St. Francis Neighborhood

You may send a condolence or sign the online register book by visiting: www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Charlotte Burnham

AUBURN — Charlotte Burnham, 80, of Auburn died Monday, Nov. 23, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Burnham was a homemaker.

She attended the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn.

She was born May 8, 1929, in Royal Oak, Mich., to Orin G. and Natalia Ely.

She married Lawrence Burnham on June 28, 1946, in Dowagiac, Mich., and he preceded her in death.

Surviving are one son and daughter-in-law, Eric and Deanna Burnham of Aiken, S.C.; two grandchildren, Sean Camp, and Addam Camp; and four great-grandchildren, Cody Camp, Cordell Camp, Gage Camp and Austin Camp.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; and a daughter, Lorri Camp.

There will be no calling.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Viola Sowles

GARRETT — Viola R. Sowles, 76, of Garrett died Tuesday, November 24, 2009, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

Mrs. Sowles worked for the Hamilton Product Company and the MidAmerican Corp. in Auburn for 10 years.

Mrs. Sowles

She attended the Auburn Alliance Church.

She was born November 11, 1933, in Paulding, Ohio, to Doyle and Elizabeth (Farlee) Purk.

She married Dorsey Sowles on May 13, 1950, in Akron, Indiana. He died on Sept. 13, 2001.

Surviving are one son and his family, Dorsey Wayne and Dayle Sowles of Durham, N.C., and his children and grandchildren, Michelle, Rodney, Bradley, Sarah, Kenna, Kaylee, Gavin, and Evan; three daughters and their families, Judy Beard of Garrett and her children and grandchildren, Tara, Cheyenne, Shawnee, and Lakota; Janet and Steve Carper of Fort Wayne and their children, Michael, and Marci; and June Fifer and companion Dan Graves of Hamilton and her children and grandchildren, Aaron, Kimberley, Nikki, Maddy, Baylee, Tori, Caleb, and Tristen; and a sister-in-law, Ruth Purk of Coldwater, Michigan.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; and one brother, Louis Purk.

Services will be 2 p.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St. Waterloo, with the Rev. Al Black officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will from noon to 2 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to Shelter Ministries Food Bank.

George Coleman Jr.

GARRETT — George L. Coleman Jr., age 67 of Garrett, Ind., died at 3:03 a.m. Monday, November 23, 2009. He was born March 23, 1942, in Kendallville, Ind., to George L. and Laura Mae (Hoffelder) Coleman Sr.

Mr. Coleman

He was a graduate of Kendallville High School in the class of 1960.

He married Lorraine M. Rowe on March 30, 1963, in Kendallville, Ind., and she died January 15, 2004.

He served in the Army from 1960-1963, serving on their Honor Guard unit.

He was a cook at Kraft Foods in Kendallville, Ind., for 45 years, retiring on September 1, 2009.

George enjoyed IU basketball and playing poker with his friends.

George is survived by his mother, Laura Mae Coleman, Kendallville, Ind; two sons and one daughter, Todd L. (Tammi) Coleman of Auburn, Ind., Tim L. Coleman of Garrett, Ind., and Tamara L. Coleman of Auburn, Ind.; four grandchildren, Zachary Coleman of Auburn, Ind., Christina Meyer of Auburn, Ind., Seth Coleman of Avilla, Ind., and McKenzie Coleman of Ashley, Ind.

George is also survived by three brothers and a sister, Charles (Cheryl) Coleman of Garrett, Ind., Randy (Sharon) Coleman of Auburn, Ind., Ronald (Sherri) Coleman of Kendallville, Ind., and Judy (Joe) Straw of Rome City, Ind.; two sisters in-law, Carol Parr of Garrett, Ind., and Barbara Rowe of Garrett, Ind.; and a brother-in-law, Richard Rowe of Waterloo, Ind.

He was preceded in death by his father, George L. Coleman Sr.; and his wife, Lorraine M. Coleman.

A memorial graveside service will take place at 10 a.m. Monday, November 30, 2009, at Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett, Ind., with Father Derrick Sneyd officiating. There will be graveside military services by the Garrett American Legion, VFW and U.S. Army.

Memorials are to the family.

Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett is in charge of arrangements.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting: www.thomasfunerakhome.org.

Karen Corcoran

AUBURN — Karen Marie Corcoran, 50, of Auburn, Indiana, lost her year-long battle with colon cancer on Sunday, November 22, 2009.

She was born in Iron Mountain, Mich., on January 26, 1959.

Mrs. Corcoran

Karen was a 1977 graduate of North Dickinson High School. While in high school she enjoyed working with handicapped people and played the tenor saxophone in the North Dickinson band.

She married Patrick Corcoran on April 16, 1977, in Iron Mountain, Mich.

Pat and Karen have lived and worked in several places over the years. Karen has worked as a teacher's aide in Rockford, Mich., at Toys R Us in Elgin, Ill., and for the floral department at Kroger's in Auburn, Ind.

She was a den mother for her children's Cub Scout activities.

Karen loved to read and was an avid Green Bay Packers fan, and also enjoyed fishing and doing puzzles.

She especially loved having family gatherings at her home in Auburn, Ind. She was a proud and doting grandmother to Sophia Ignacio.

Karen was preceded in death by her father, Donald McDonald.

She is survived by her husband, Patrick; three sons, Jamie and Jennifer Corcoran of Thorp, Wis., John Corcoran of Grand Rapids, Mich., and Jacob Corcoran of Fort Wayne, Ind.; her mother, Jeanette McDonald (Bozile) of Sagola, Mich.; brothers and sisters, Mike McDonald, Larry (Cheryl) McDonald, Terry (Dawn) McDonald, Laurie (Dan) Dunbar and Patti (Tom) Roell; her mother-in-law, Bonita Corcoran; brothers- and sisters-in-aw, Norma Hoke, Bob Olson, Carol (Richard) Paisley, Margie Corcoran, Mary (Skip) Schreiber, and Mike (Sue) Corcoran.

Visitation will be on Friday, November 27, from 10 a.m. until noon at St. Rose Church in Channing.

Funeral services will be at noon Friday at the church. Father Jeffrey Kurtz will offer the Mass of the Christian burial. Burial will be in Cemetery Park.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Karen Corcoran online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the funeral arrangements.

Susan Neuhaus

AUBURN — Susan Drew (Franke) Neuhaus, 64, died Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2009, at her residence in Auburn.

Mrs. Neuhaus was a homemaker.

Mrs. Neuhaus

She was a 1963 graduate of Central Catholic High School.

Surviving are her husband, Donald Neuhaus of Auburn; sons, Chris M. (Taunya) Anderson of Fort Wayne, Brad P. (Brandy) Anderson of Fort Wayne, Jody (Cathy) Neuhaus of Kendallville and Matthew (Eva) Anderson of Zionsville; a daughter, Carol (Tom) Firks of Noblesville; and 14 grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 1 p.m. Monday at St. Jude Catholic Church, 2130 Pemberton Drive, Fort Wayne, with Father Thomas Shoemaker officiating.

Calling will be from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday at D.O. McComb and Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 East Dupont Road with vigil at 4:30 p.m. Calling will also be one hour prior to the service Monday at the church.

Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery.

Memorials are to the St. Mary's Soup Kitchen or Parkview Hospice.

To sign the online guest book, go to www.mccombandsons.com.

J.B. Parker

GARRETT — J.B. Parker, 86, formerly of Auburn and Waterloo, died Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2009, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

No services are planned.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Auburn are handling arrangements.

Edward Grady Sr.

KENDALLVILLE — Edward A. Grady Sr., 88, a Kendallville businessman and lifetime resident died Wednesday, November 25, 2009, in his residence.

Mr. Grady graduated from Kendallville High School in 1939, of which he was the class President. He was a member and Deacon of the First Presbyterian Church in Kendallville. He was a 50-year member of the following: Past Worthy Patron of OES Chapter 122, the Masonic Lodge 276, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Mizpah Temple and Kendallville Elks Lodge. He was president of the directors staff of Mizpah Temple, charter member of the Kendallville Jaycees, and was a member of the Order of the Arrow.

Mr. Grady

Mr. Grady was employed at McCray Refrigeration Company in the Credit and Collection Department, and later as Customer Supervisor at the G.E. Supercharger Plant in Fort Wayne. In 1943, he joined his father in the Grady Construction business. As the owner of Grady Inc., he developed Friendly Village, Scottsdale Subdivision, and Friendly Village Plaza.

At Grady Construction Inc., he and his father rebuilt Newnam Foundry after it was destroyed by fire and removed the third floor off the Beyer Campbell Banta building on the corner of South Main and West William Streets. He also did construction work on many store buildings on Main Street, the YMCA Camp at Dallas Lake, Boy Scout Camp on Big Island on Sylvan Lake, and many homes in Kendallville and the surrounding area.

He was also the owner of Grady Realty Inc., and, as he drove down the streets of Kendallville, he remembered either remodeling, building, or selling at least one home on almost every street. Mr. Grady had a passion for building and finding homes for people. His comment was, "I have the best people in the world working with me." He also had the highest regard for Dick Shultz, who worked with him for 42 years.

Mr. Grady was one of ten local businessmen who purchased the land from the Beyer Foundation which the city developed into Sunset Park on Drake Road.

Mr.Grady recently donated 22 acres east of Riley Road, north of the Friendly Village Subdivision and Lake View Cemetery to the city for a park.

He was born to Virgle C. and Ella K. (Zeltman) Grady on December 5, 1920, at 410 N. Main St. in Kendallville. He was delivered by Dr. F.A. Lawson, this being his first baby upon entering practice in Kendallville.

On July 4, 1941, in Garrett, he married Mary Nancy Whelan. She preceded him in death on February 8, 2003.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Sandra and Gary Sutton and Patricia and Richard Wiehe; two sons, Edward A. Grady Jr. and Paul Grady; a sister, Helen Bowman; 11 grandchildren; and 12 great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be today, Saturday, November 28, 2009, at 1 p.m. in the Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville, with the Rev. Stan Wilson officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials are to the First Presbyterian Church or Shriners Hospital.

View a video tribute or send condolences to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Donald Henderson

GARRETT — Donald G. "Buster" Henderson II, 44, of Garrett died Thursday, Nov. 26, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Funeral services will be on Monday at 11 a.m. at the Brazzell Funeral Home, Avilla Chapel, 530 N. Main St., Avilla. Burial will follow at the Woodland Cemetery in Wolcottville. The Avilla American Legion Post 240 will conduct military graveside services.

Calling will be on Sunday from 3-8:00 p.m. A Masonic service will be conducted at 7 p.m.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Relay for Life, the Auburn Presbyterian Church Soup Kitchen or the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

To sign the online guest register visit www.brazzellfuneralhome.com.

Edward Howard

GARRETT — Edward Allen Howard, 80, of Garrett died Thursday, Nov. 26, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Howard was a train master on the B&O Railroad for 41 years, retiring in 1986.

Mr. Howard

He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict from 1951 to 1953 and was in the Honor Guard in 1953.

Mr. Howard was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and Garrett Masonic Lodge for 50 years.

He was born Nov. 7, 1929, in Monticello, Ind., to William R. and Grace L. (Landgreaver) Howard. He married Doris A. Dolan on Oct. 28, 1951 in Garrett. She survives in Garrett.

Also surviving is a son, Steven Howard of Garrett, and his mother in-law, Margaret D. Dolan, of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett with the Rev. William Haworth officiating. Burial will be in Embery Cemetery in rural Garrett with military graveside services conducted by the Garrett American Legion and VFW.

Calling will be 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home, with a Masonic service at 7:30 p.m. and an Order of the Eastern Star service at 7:45 p.m.

Memorials are to the DeKalb Heart Association

Condolences may be sent online to www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Jack Clady

AUBURN — Jack W. Clady, 78, of Auburn and formerly of Garrett died Friday, Nov. 27, 2009, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

Mr. Clady is a retired forklift driver for Sheller Global in Grabill.

Mr. Clady

He was born Sept. 29, 1931, in Garrett to Wilford and Dorothy M. (Diederich) Clady. He married Katherine C. Shuff on March 27, 1956, in Garrett. She died Nov. 27, 2006.

Surviving are six daughters and sons-in-law, Kim J. and Clarence Thomson of Auburn, Denise E. Parker of Garrett, Marsha A. Warfield of Auburn, Karen D. Slone of Waterloo, Jennifer D. and Zack McPherson of Auburn and Jackie L. and Vallis Huff Jr. of Garrett; two sons, Troy W. Clady of Garrett and Todd E. Clady of Garrett; 18 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; and one brother, DuWayne Clady.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Richard Pickard officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday prior to the funeral service at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Kim Thomson.

THE EVENING STAR
November 29 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Full life in a small package

Ryan Zimmerman 'lit up everybody's world'

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Although he stood just over 4 feet tall, Ryan Zimmerman was a huge presence in nearly every room he strode into, and a lifelong friend and role model for many in the area.

Zimmerman, 36, of Angola died Nov. 4, following a lifetime of ailments.

Zimmerman's mother, Sharlla Zimmerman, said her son was an electric presence in a room every time he walked in.

"He just lit up everybody's world," Sharlla said. "He was somebody special. He endured a lot, but he always got through it. He came into a room and you just noticed him right away."

Sharlla said doctors were never really quite sure of what had caused her son's dwarfism. His symptoms were most similar to Williams Syndrome, which causes an "elfin-like" facial appearance, but he did not fit many of the other symptoms of the illness. Unlike many with dwarfism, Sharlla said, her son was perfectly proportioned. While Williams Syndrome often leads to mental retardation, her son attended Ball State University and was extremely intelligent.

However, it wasn't his dwarfism that caused him the most pain. Zimmerman also suffered from Perthes disease, a degenerative hip condition that caused him to spend a lot of time in the hospital and forced him to wear braces growing up.

"He had to wear the brace to try and get the bones to heal correctly," Sharlla said. "But he still rode a bicycle and did all of the things he wasn't supposed to do. Can't just wasn't in his vocabulary. If they told him he couldn't do something, he would do it."

Even after both his hips were replaced, Zimmerman was likely in constant pain for the whole of his life, Sharlla was told by doctors.

"He never complained," she said.

Sharlla said she was always surprised that her son didn't get more teasing from classmates at Prairie Heights due to his condition. She said that his classmates, seeing what he went through and how he carried himself, likely prevented any such teasing.

"The kids who started school with him saw what he went through, they protected him," she said. "A lot of it was his attitude, too, the way he handled himself. All of his best friends were big guys."

One of those friends was Jim Clark. Clark met Zimmerman when they both started their freshman year of high school. The two became friends easily, something that came naturally to Ryan.

"Once he started talking to someone, he was their best friend," Clark said. "He never let his size get in the way of anything he wanted to do."

Rooming with Zimmerman in college brought him a new appreciation of his friend's way with people.

"I was always a well-known person, but for the first time in my life I was just 'Ryan's roommate.' No one who ever met him disliked him," he said.

Zimmerman lived with Clark and his wife a number of years after college. Clark said Zimmerman's friendly nature extended to the young, including his young daughter. "He'd be carrying her around at 40 pounds," Clark said. "He'd always tell people, 'Jim's the father, but I'm the dad. It was my girl.'"

Zimmerman was also a major presence on local baseball diamonds, both as a coach and as an umpire.

"He was a sports fanatic," Clark said. "If he wasn't playing, he was watching baseball or football."

Longtime friend Jody Morrow got to know Zimmerman by playing basketball. Later on, when Morrow was starting his career as a coach in the Orland Little League program, there was only one person he knew he wanted to help.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Ryan Zimmerman made fast friends everywhere he went. Despite his small stature, friends and family say his out-sized personality made him a beloved figure of nearly all who knew him.

"Ryan was the first person I called," Morrow said. "He had a lot more of the intricate knowledge of baseball than I did." A few years later, when both left coaching for a period, Ryan also took up umpiring. He even looked into umpiring professionally, Sharlla said, however, he was concerned about his hips. When Ryan began his own coaching career, he called up Morrow to act as his assistant. Morrow said that as it had been in school, Ryan commanded the respect of his players. "They respected him a lot more than they did me," he explained. "Personality-wise, he was 6 feet, 3 inches and went about 250 pounds."

Mildred Cutshall

AUBURN — Mildred (Smith) Cutshall, 96, of Auburn died Friday, Nov. 27, 2009, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Cutshall was a homemaker.

She was a member of the St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn. She was also a member of the Prudent Circle of the church and the church choir. She also volunteered her time as a pianist for Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Mrs. Cutshall

She was born July 18, 1913, in Green Township of Noble County, Indiana to Dean and Mary Elizabeth (Harrold) Smith.

She married Rupert Cutshall in April of 1933. He passed away in May of 1999.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Paul Cutshall of Garrett, and John and Janet Cutshall of Garrett; one daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth Ann (Cutshall) and Jack Teegardin of Long View, Texas; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; two stepgreat-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and four stepgreat-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; one brother, Charles W. Smith; and one sister, Emily Herbst.

Services will be 2 p.m. Friday at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 211 W. Ninth St., Auburn, with the Rev. Stephen Kummernuss officiating. Burial will be in Huntertown Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, and also one hour prior to the funeral service Friday at the Church.

Memorials may be directed to the St. Mark's Lutheran Church or Youth for Christ.

Edward Howard

GARRETT — Edward Allen Howard, 80, of Garrett died Thursday, Nov. 26, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery in rural Garrett with military graveside services.

Calling will be 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home, with a Masonic service at 7:30 p.m. and an Order of the Eastern Star service at 7:45 p.m.

Memorials are to the DeKalb Heart Association.

Condolences may be sent online to www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

← Edward Howard

Ernest Fernatt

AUBURN — Ernest Ray "Ernie" Fernatt, 67, of Auburn, died Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009, at his home.

A celebration of life gathering took place Sunday at Hubbard Hill estates in the Sailor Community Center, Elkhart.

Elkhart Cremation Services is handling arrangements.

Memorials are to the Elkhart County Humane Society, P.O. Box 123, Elkhart, IN 46515.

Kenneth Krider

PEORIA, Ariz. — Kenneth J. "Joe" Krider, 75, passed away Nov. 25, 2009, in Peoria, Ariz.

Joe was born to J. Kenneth and Arminie (Young) Krider on October 31, 1934, in Garrett, Indiana.

He graduated from Garrett High School in 1952.

He married Patricia Lung on March 4, 1955, in Auburn.

He was employed at Dana Corp. for 28 years, receiving four years of schooling as a journeyman repairmen, machine repair.

He retired to Sun City, Ariz., in 1996. He volunteered many years for the Maricopa County Sheriff's Posse and was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Sun City.

Survivors include wife, Pat; three sons, Gary of Coldwater, Mich., Jeff and Mark of Garrett; four grandchildren, Regina, Troy, Lance and Brett; and three great-grandchildren, Trinity, Kayla and Bryce.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Barbara Haynes and Patricia Lublow.

Per Joe's request, no services were held and cremation was done.

Memorials may be sent to Sun City Posse, P.O. Box 2229, Sun City, AZ 85372.

Mary Clifton

ANGOLA — Mary L. Clifton of Angola died at 12:25 a.m. Thursday, December 3, 2009, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mrs. Clifton

She was born in DeKalb County on November 13, 1916, to Ray and Ollie (Shipe) Colbart. She married Ray Clifton on December 4, 1933. He died on February 23, 1975. She was also preceded in death by a son, David Clifton; two daughters and a son-in-law, Nancy Clifton and Jack and AnnaLee Groosbeck; and a stepgrandson, Ronald Ulch.

She retired in 1983 after 33 years of operating the Otter Lake Market west of Angola with her husband.

Mrs. Clifton was a member of the Stroh Church of Christ.

She was a lifetime resident of Steuben County and a graduate of Ashley High School.

She enjoyed painting and working in her yard.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, John and Sue Clifton of Kendallville; a daughter and son-in-law, Lyn and Lonnie Blanchard of Keller, Texas; eight grandchildren; nine stepgrandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; 23 stepgreat-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and two stepgreat-great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at the Stroh Church of Christ with Mike Hamm, minister, officiating. Burial will be in Flint Cemetery. Her grandsons will serve as pallbearers.

Calling will be from 3-7 p.m. Sunday at the church.

Memorials are to the Stroh Church of Christ.

Johnson Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Hudson, is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online to johnson@bnin.net.

Robert Derrow

AUBURN — Robert L. Derrow, 80, of Menomonee Falls, Wis., formerly of Auburn, died Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2009.

Services will be Friday, Dec. 11, at 11:30 a.m. at the Schmidt & Bartelt Funeral Home in Menomonee Falls, Wis.

Burial will be at St. Anthony's Church Cemetery. Visitation will be from 9:30 a.m. until time of the service.

James Lung Sr.

BUTLER — James R. Lung Sr., 74, of Butler died Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009, at his home.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are by H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler.

Harvey Neumann

HILLIARD, Ohio — Harvey L. Neumann, 59, of Hilliard died Thursday, Nov. 26, 2009, at his home.

Graveside services were held Thursday at Butler Cemetery in Butler, Ind., with his cousin, Pastor Scott Miner, officiating.

Memorials are to Volunteers of America Men's Services, 624 Harmon Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43024.

Kenneth Washburn

AUBURN — Kenneth Robert Washburn, 65, of Auburn died Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2009, at his home.

He was born Sept. 12, 1944, in Johnson City, N.Y., to Osmond N. and Elizabeth E. (Martin) Washburn. His mother is deceased and his father sur-vives in Natchez, Miss. He married Marilyn Durst on June 1, 1970, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., and she survives

Mr. Washburn

He was a minister and an attorney.

Mr. Washburn was a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran and was awarded the Purple Heart.

His church was Home Church.

He was a member of the Florida Bar Association, Legal Aid Society, Christian Legal Society, Gideon's, Mensa and Kiwanis International of Orlando, Fla.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Michelle and Todd Jr. Hauter of Waterloo; a sister, Sharon Rushing of Natchez, Miss.; two brothers, Douglas Washburn of Virginia and Richard Washburn; and four grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by a sister, Patty Washburn, and a brother, Timothy Washburn.

Services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Fort Wayne VA Hospital.

Mary Studer

COLDWATER, Mich. — Mary Louise Studer, age 81, of Coldwater, Michigan, died at 5:40 a.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at Cameron Memorial Hospital in Angola, Indiana, where she was a patient, after an extended illness.

Mrs. Studer

Mrs. Studer was a homemaker and loved making crafts, ceramics and reading.

She was a member of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Coldwater, Michigan, was a former member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Edgerton, and was a member of the Rosary Altar Society at St. Mary's.

Mary Louise Studer was born on April 12, 1928, in Butler, Indiana, the daughter of Harold and Dessie (Green) Dohner. She married John F. Studer on July 26, 1947, in Edgerton, Ohio, and he survives.

She is also survived by her children, JoAnn (John) Armbruster of Edon, Ohio, Kevin (Suzie) Studer of Edgerton, Ohio, Jean Studer of Coldwater, Michigan, Christine (Roland) Rohdy of Hicksville, Ohio, and Darrell (Stephanie) Studer of Quincey, Michigan; 16 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two sons, James and Phillip Studer; three brothers, Gordon, Norman and Garman Dohner; and two sisters, Garland Blair and Patricia Richards.

Visitation for Mary Louise Studer will be held on Sunday, December 6, 2009, from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. in the Krill Funeral Home, Edgerton, Ohio. Recitation of the rosary will be at 8:15 p.m. on Sunday.

Services will be held on Monday, December 7, at 11 a.m. in St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Coldwater, Michigan, with Father Dan Doctor officiating. Visitation will be held in the church one hour prior to the service, beginning at 10 a.m.

Interment will be in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Edgerton, Ohio.

Memorials for Mary L. Studer may be given to St. Mary's Catholic School in Edgerton.

Condolences may be sent to and the online register signed at www.krillfuneralservice.com.

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Carl Hildebrandt

BUTLER — Carl L. Hildebrandt, 71, died Saturday at the Laurels of Dekalb Nursing Home, Butler.

Funeral services will be Monday at 2 p.m. at H. E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home in Butler, with calling one hour prior to services. Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery with military honors by Butler American Legion Post 202

Memorials to the Butler Youth League.

Arrangements by H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com

Betty Smurr

GARRETT — Betty J. Smurr, age 86, died Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009 at 11:37 a.m. at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was born February 15, 1923 in Kendallville, Ind. to Charlie and Marie (Dellenbaugh) Roush.

Mrs. Smurr

She married Jack W. Smurr on Sept. 12, 1952 in Auburn.

Betty was a machine operator at Electric Motors, retiring in 1989.

She was a member of the VFW Auxiliary.

She enjoyed fishing at Golden Lake, playing euchre and watching her grandchildren play sports.

She is survived by her husband, Jack; two sons and daughters-in-law, Dirk and Susan Smurr of Auburn and Jack R. and Renee Smurr of Garrett; two grandchildren, Jack R. Smurr Jr. of Garrett and Candace Lewis of Garrett; and two great-grandchildren Ty Smurr and Blake Lewis, both of Garrett.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents, one brother, Robert Roush; and two sisters, Bonnie Jamison and Sharon Rowe.

Visitation will be on Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2009 from 6-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home.

The funeral service will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2009 at 11a.m. at the funeral home with Rev. David Mix officiating. Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Memorials are to the Red Cross or the DeKalb Humane Shelter

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook go to thomasfuneralhome.org

Alice Cool

AUBURN — Alice Louise Cool, 90, died Sunday, Dec. 6, 2009 at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home, Fort Wayne.

She was born May 21, 1919 in Allen County to Ira and Elsie Laura (Walrath) Wertman. They have both passed on.

Mrs. Cool

She was a homemaker. She loved her family, nature, taking walks and had a zest for life. Her hobbies were gardening and doing crossword puzzles.

She married Chalmer Cool on Jan. 1, 1939, in Auburn, and he died in September of 1996.

She is survived by a daughter Nila Funk of Auburn; a son and daughter-in-law, Kenneth D. and Carol Cool, also of Auburn; five grandchildren, Todd (Thao) Cool of Fort Wayne, Jeff Funk of Auburn, Dan (Robin) Funk of Auburn, Dr. Angela (Gus) Cool-Pullen of Missouri City, Texas, and Kimberly (Dennis) (Cool) Keller of Missouri City, Texas; six great-grandchildren, Tristan Funk of Auburn, Caleb Funk of Auburn, MaKenna Cool of Fort Wayne, Maya Cool of Fort Wayne, Meredith Elaine Pullen and Owen Keller, both of Missouri City, Texas; and two sisters-in-law, Jackie Walker of St. Joe and Ruth Wertman of Garrett.

She was preceded in death by a daughter Norma Irene Cool who died in infancy, four brothers, Gerald Wertman, Harold Wertman, Ira Wertman Jr. and Keith Wertman and two sisters, Fern Sindel and Gertrude Smith.

Services are 2 p.m. Thursday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 South Center Street, Auburn. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling is Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Carolyn Miller

AUBURN — Carolyn L. Miller, age 71, of Auburn, Ind., died at 5:00 a.m. Monday, December 7, 2009, at Hospice Home of Northeast Indiana at Fort Wayne, Ind.

Mrs. Miller

She was born December 21, 1937, in Wells County, Ind., to Denver and Mary (Herman) Simmerman and they preceded her in death.

She married George A. Miller on November 1, 1958, in Auburn, Ind., and he survives in Auburn, Ind.

Carolyn was a homemaker and attended LaOtto Wesleyan Church.

She was a loving mother and grandmother, having worked in the church for years. She loved to cook, have family gatherings and recognizing birthdays.

She is survived by her husband, George A Miller, Auburn, Ind.; and two daughters and three sons: Kristine and Thomas Gruwell, LaOtto, Ind., Brian and Connie Miller, Garrett, Ind., Terry and Trisha Miller, Auburn, Ind., Nora and Scott Place, Olivet, Mich., and Daniel and Tina Miller, Waterloo, Ind.

She is also survived by her grandchildren: Nicolas Gruwell, Fort Wayne, Ind., Trent Gruwell and Rebecca Gruwell, LaOtto, Ind., Cierra Miller, Huntington, Ind., Tasha Ousley and Taya Ousley, Garrett, Ind., Denver Miller, Garrett, Ind., and Ashley Miller, Auburn, Ind., Brock Pook, Olivet, Mich., Mac Place, Eaton Rapids, Mich., and Joshua Miller and Chelsea Miller, Waterloo, IN.

Carolyn is also survived by a sister, Helen Carmean, Ossian, Ind.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Denver and Mary Simmerman; a brother, Fred Simmerman; and a sister, Ruby Schwartz.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, December 9, 2009, at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett, and from 10-11 a.m. Thursday, December 10, 2009, at LaOtto Wesleyan Church in LaOtto, Ind.

The services will take place at 11 a.m. Thursday at the church with Pastor Tyler Ward officiating and burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett, IN.

Memorials are to the LaOtto Wesleyan Food Pantry.

You may send a condolence or sign the on-line register book by visiting www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Patricia Kneip

NOBLESVILLE — Patricia A. (McBride) Kneip, 83, of Noblesville and formerly of Butler, died Friday, Dec. 4, 2009.

Services will be at 3:30 p.m. Sunday at Bethel Lutheran Church, Noblesville, with the Rev. Doug Gast officiating. Burial will be in Fort Snelling National Cemetery, St. Paul, Minn.

Calling will be from 2-3:30 p.m. before the service.

Memorials are to Riverview Hospital, Memorial Foundation, P.O. Box 220, Noblesville, IN 46041 or Hamilton County Humane Society, 1721 Pleasant St., Suite B, Noblesville, IN 46060.

Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, Noblesville, is handling arrangements.

Constance Handshoe

KENDALLVILLE — Constance S. "Connie" Handshoe, 70, of Kendallville died Sunday, Dec. 6, 2009, at Lutheran Life Villages, Kendallville.

Mrs. Handshoe was a lifetime area resident.

She had worked at Plastimatics in Albion.

She was born May 9, 1939, in DeKalb County to Arthur and Orla May (Derrow) Swander.

Surviving are three daughters, Cheryl Stafford of Kendallville, Debra Halsey of Albion and Tammy Altimus of Wawaka; one son, Allen Handshoe of Albion; 10 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; two sisters, JoAnn Wert of Kendallville and Carolyn Martin of Fort Wayne; and two brothers, Fred Swander of Albion and Richard Swander of Fremont.

She was preceded in death by a son, Jeffery Handshoe; four sisters; and two brothers.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. today in the chapel at Lutheran Life Villages, Kendallville, with Pastor Mathew Swander officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery, Kendallville.

Calling will be one hour prior to the service.

Arrangements are by Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Preston Stackhouse

FORT WAYNE — Preston E. Stackhouse, 68, of Fort Wayne died Sunday, December 6, 2009, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Stackhouse was a retired U.S. Navy veteran serving in the submarine division. He also retired from the City of Auburn meter department in 2007.

He was a graduate of Auburn High School class of 1959. He also attended Purdue University.

He was a member of the American Legion Post 97 of Auburn and the Elks Lodge.

He was an avid reader, lover of Greek history, golfing, cooking, family and friends. He enjoyed his time spent and many friends made at Lake Gage. He was also especially known for his practical jokes.

He was born September 30, 1941, in Auburn to Preston E. Stackhouse Sr. and Bodie (Schwartz) Stackhouse. They both preceded him in death.

He is survived by his first and last love, Cathy (Walter) Bewak of Fort Wayne; two daughters, Kimberley Kiernan of Boca Raton, Fla., and Geraldine Neely of Butler; one son, Peter Stackhouse of Garrett; one sister and brother-in-law, Mary Ann and Richard Houser of Kendallville; nine grandchildren; his uncle, Hubert L. Stackhouse of Auburn; eight nieces; four nephews; and two great-nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 2:30 p.m. Friday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

The family will receive friends from 1-2:30 p.m. Friday prior to the service.

Memorials may be directed to the Boy Scout Explorer Post 8203 in care of the Auburn Fire Department, Community Harvest Food Bank, or the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission.

James Lung Sr.

BUTLER — James R. Lung Sr., 74, of Butler died Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009, at his home.

Mr. Lung was a retired electrician and plumber.

He was a graduate of Butler High School.

He was born on June 5, 1935, in Garrett to Henry E. Lung Sr. and Elma (Franks) Lung. He married Luvenia Webb on Feb. 26, 1987, in Hicksville, Ohio. She survives.

Surviving with his wife are two sons, James R. Lung Jr. and Mickey Lung, both of Butler; a daughter, Denise Hankey of Butler; four stepdaughters, Meredith Armstrong and Teresa Brown, both of Columbus, Ohio, Heather Paris of Butler and Deborah Derck of Edon, Ohio; 15 grandchildren; a brother, Henry Lung Jr. of Utah; and two sisters, Nancy Shultz of Butler and Barbara Wagner of Warsaw.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Brian Lung; and a sister, Gloria Butler.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Butler Assembly of God Church, with Pastor Jamie Garner officiating.

Calling will be one hour prior to services.

Memorials are to the church.

H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, is in charge of arrangements.

Homer Haviland Jr.

ANGOLA — Homer Haviland Jr., 73, of Angola died Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009, at his home in Angola.

Mr. Haviland had been a pressman for Cooper Tire Products of Auburn and had retired in 2000.

He was born July 22, 1936, in LaGrange County to Homer Haviland Sr. and Esther (Mosser) Haviland. He married Betty J. Wise on July 6, 1959, and she died Sept. 13, 2000.

Mr. Haviland

Surviving are two sons, Gregory Haviland of Hudson and Scott Haviland of Angola; three daughters, Debbie Beardsley of St. Charles, Mo., Roxanne Fisher of Angola and Nichole Willms of Orland; two brothers, Francis "Stub" Haviland and Emery Haviland, both of Georgia; three sisters, Louie Keimer of Georgia, Clara Rinehart of Kendallville and Inez Haviland of Angola; 11 grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by his parents; a son, Steve Haviland; and two brothers, William and Arthur Haviland.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola. Burial will be in Flint Cemetery in Steuben County.

Calling will be from 6-8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family in care of Roxane Fisher.

Charles Summers Jr.

GARRETT — Charles H. Summers Jr., 87, of Garrett died Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Eel River Cemetery, corner of Carroll Road and Madden Road, Fort Wayne, with Pastor Joseph W. Heins of the Auburn Church of Christ officiating.

Memorials are to the Auburn Church of Christ.

Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett is in charge of arrangements.

You may send a condolence or sign the online register book by visiting: www.thomasfuneralhome.org,

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Family was most important

David Aschleman never missed a game

BY JENNY KOBIELA-MONDOR
jennyk@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Family was the most important thing to David Aschleman, his family said.

Aschleman, 66, of Auburn, died Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2009.

"I played a lot of sports, and he always helped me with that. … He never missed a game, and if he ever missed a game, he was farming," his son, Brian, said. "He was all about his grandkids and what they were doing."

"He took them fishing," his wife, Virginia, said of David Aschleman's relationship with his grandchildren, Jack David and Emilie Ann Aschleman and Tyler Babbitt, "We spent quite a bit of time at the lake, and he took them fishing. He also took them to baseball games, football games and basketball games."

He also loved to eat out with family and friends.

"He looked forward to the weekends to eat out," Virginia Aschleman said. "We just went around to different restaurants. The Town Tavern was one of the main ones we enjoyed going to."

David Aschleman loved sports. He was a football star at Auburn High School, from which he graduated in 1961.

"I've heard stories," Virginia Aschleman said. "If he got the ball, nobody could catch him."

"He's a dedicated family man," his daughter, Vicky, said. "When we were younger, we camped on weekends at a lake in Fremont called Fish Lake. It was just a quiet getaway."

Aschleman was "just an outdoors guy" who enjoyed mowing the lawn, gardening, playing sports and farming, Virginia Aschleman said.

"He started farming probably when he was about 10 years old," she said.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

David Aschleman, back right, poses from a photo with his family. In front, from left, are daughter Vicky Babbitt, grandchildren Emilie Aschleman, Jack David Aschleman and Tyler Babbitt, and wife Virginia Aschleman. In back, from left, are son-in-law Brad Babbitt, son Brian Aschleman, daughter-in-law Dawn Aschleman and David Aschleman.

As a child, he enjoyed helping his father, Raymond, farm, said his mother, Luella Aschleman.

"He was always a thoughtful boy, from the time he was a little kid," she said. "He would go with his dad out on the farm. The fence post at the end of the garden, he would sit on that and watch for his dad to come home every day."

Luella Aschleman remembered one time when David was helping his father fix a fence.

"David was carrying the little things you put on the post to hold the wire up," she said. Halfway across the the fence, "David said, 'I'm not going any farther.' His dad loaded him in the trailer, and hauled him to the house, and we found out he had the mumps."

In addition to farming, David Aschleman spent time in the Indiana Army National Guard from 1964 to 1970. He was part of Company C; First, Second and Third Rifle Platoon; First Batallion; 293rd Infantry; 38th Infantry Division out of Fort Wayne. He spent six months training at Ft. Gordon, Ga., and went to Grayling, Mich., to train for two weeks every summer.

"I guess he wanted to further do other things with his life and experience some sort of service, what it was like," Virginia Aschleman said.

David Aschleman also worked as an assembler, making clutches, at Dana Corp. and its successor,, Eaton Corp. for 30 years. He retired in 1999, but went every Friday morning to eat breakfast at Richards Restaurant with coworkers.

"He looked forward to it," Virginia Aschleman said. "They really miss him now. I've been hearing that from a lot of them. It's just not the same, they keep telling me."

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December 13 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Couple die in watery crash

Dr. John, Karen McArdle found in submerged car southeast of Butler

BY JEFF JONES
jeffj@kpcnews.net

BUTLER — A prominent couple who resided in Clear Lake and Auburn who were reported missing Friday night were found in their submerged car just after 10 a.m. Saturday southeast of Butler.

Police recovered the bodies of Dr. John E. McArdle, 69, and his wife, Karen McArdle, 63, from their vehicle after a passing driver spotted the McArdles' car upside-down in 4 feet of water in the St. Joseph River along C.R. 42, between C.R. 75 and C.R. 79. The couple resided in the 500 block of Lake Drive on Clear Lake and the 600 block of North Main Street, Auburn.

Dr. McArdle was an anesthesiologist at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn. He also was believed to have served two terms on the Clear Lake Town Council and had served as the council's president.

Karen McArdle was a professor of art at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne.

While police continue to investigate the accident, Indiana State Police detective Mark Heffelfinger said he believes the McArdles were traveling east on C.R. 42.

The road surface was covered with a thin layer of ice and packed snow Saturday morning. The gravel road follows a steep and curving downhill slope to a bridge, beside a horseshoe bend in the St. Joseph River.

From evidence at the scene, Heffelfinger said it appears the McArdle vehicle may have traveled left of center, struck a guardrail and traveled along it for approximately 35 feet. The car's undercarriage struck the bridge, causing the vehicle to flip over and land on its top in a stream, which meets the river after passing under the bridge. The vehicle was found partially

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DAVE KURTZ

Police and firefighters gather on a bridge on C.R. 42 after finding a car in the water under the bridge Saturday morning. They were awaiting a wrecker that pulled the car from the stream. The St. Joseph River is in the foreground.

CRASH: *Remote, winding C.R. 42 can be used as shortcut to Ohio*

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under the bridge.

Police said the couple had been in Fort Wayne and were believed to be driving to meet with a relative in Ohio. When they failed to arrive at their destination, police received a report that they were missing around 6 p.m. Friday.

The remote, winding C.R. 42 can be used as a shortcut to Ohio and becomes Conkle Road in Williams County, Ohio. The crash site is about one mile west of the Ohio line.

After the discovery of the crash, police and firefighters gathered at the scene and waited for a heavy-duty wrecker to remove the car from the icy water.

State police were assisted by the Butler police and fire departments, Auburn Police, the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department, DeKalb EMS, the DeKalb County Coroner and the Department of Homeland Security.

JEFF JONES

An Auburn couple died when their vehicle went over a guardrail into a creek next to C.R. 42 southeast of Butler. Dr. John E. McArdle, 69, and Karen McArdle, 63, had been missing since Friday evening. A passing motorist found their vehicle upside-down in a creek next to the St. Joseph River just after 10 a.m. Saturday.

Myrtle Anglin

MOREHEAD, Ky. — Myrtle L. Anglin, 89, died Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009, in her home in Morehead, Kentucky.

She was born on June 7, 1920, in West Liberty, Kentucky, to Kelly and Mary (Music) Ferguson. Myrtle retired from Universal Tool of Butler.

Mrs. Anglin

She married James Anglin on Dec. 12, 1970, in Butler; he preceded her in death on July 7, 1994.

Survivors include four sons, Gary Ross of Butler, Ray Ross of Auburn, Charles Ross of Elkhart, and John Ross of Eustis, Florida; four daughters, Elizabeth Brewer of Miamisburg, Ohio, Edith Vinson of Hazel Green, Alabama, and Adalene Havens and Martha Skaggs of Morehead Kentucky; 37 grandchildren; 89 great-grandchildren; and 32 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Billy Ross; and two brothers, Billy and Arthur Ferguson.

Funeral services will be Wednesday, Dec. 16, at 11 a.m. at H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Larry Sexton officiating. Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday from 3-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the donor's choice.

Condolences may be left at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

John McArdle D.O.

AUBURN — In loving memory of our father: John E. "Jack" McArdle D.O., 69, of Auburn, passed away Friday December 11, 2009, with his wife Karen A. McArdle.

Born Nov. 14, 1940 in Fort Wayne, he was the son of the late Edward G. McArdle M.D. and Nancy Fox McArdle. He was an Anesthesiologist at DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

He is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Megan and Jonathan Moss of Auburn and Bridget McArdle D.O. and Matthew Place of Grand Blanc, Mich.; two sons and daughters-in-law, John E. "Trey" and Devon McArdle III of Clear Lake and Michael Vincent PhD M.D. and and Gabrielle Billeter of Malibu, Calif.; grandchildren, Jonathan Moss, Michael Moss, Patrick Moss, Elizabeth Moss, Kelly McArdle, John E. "Jack" McArdle IV, Charlotte Vincent and William Place; five brothers and sisters-in-law, Edward G. "Jerry" and Diane McArdle Jr. of Clear Lake, Timothy and LuAnn McArdle of Fort Wayne, Daniel and Laurie McArdle of Fort Wayne, Louis and Susan McArdle of New Orleans, La., and Shawn and Linda McArdle of Spencerville; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Colleen and John King of Roanoke and Nancy Bailey of Fort Wayne; and a sister-in-law, Janice McArdle of New Orleans, La.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Patrick McArdle.

He graduated high school from Cranwell Preparatory School in Lenox, Mass. He received his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Notre Dame. After working in sales and real estate, doing cement work, and exploring a career as a mechanic, he decided to follow in his father's footsteps and become a physician. He attended the Kirksville Osteopathic Medical School in Kirksville, Mo.

Dr. McArdle

He started his medical career by spending a year as the only doctor on Mackinac Island. After working as a family doctor in Largo, Fla., for six years, he took his two daughters, his 1-year old son and his wife to Trenton, Mich., to do a residency in anesthesia. He worked for eight years at Lansing General Hospital, and then moved to Clear Lake and then on to Auburn to work at DeKalb Memorial Hospital. The staff there will especially miss his wry sense of humor in the operating room.

Not only did he love to travel and learn, he also gave his expertise to those in need on multiple medical missions to the Dominican Republic and Ecuador.

He and Karen enjoyed traveling and took their family on road trips to see the U.S. every summer.

Although he grew up Catholic, he only went back to the church during his mother's terminal illness. As he grew older he became much stronger in his faith and was an active member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and Saint Paul Catholic Chapel, Clear Lake, where he served as a Eucharistic minister.

While living in Florida, he bought a used Force 5 sailboat and made a commitment to learn to sail it, despite its tendency to tip over, especially while sailing under causeways. He was a member of Clear Lake Yacht Club. On the weekends one of his greatest joys was sailing and racing with his wife, his children and grandchildren. During last summer's racing season, his crowning achievement was placing first in his class.

He spent his childhood summers on Lake Wawasee, where his family had a cottage. He learned to water ski and was the first person on the lake to accomplish the feat of barefooting. He continued skiing and barefooting throughout his life and had recently taken up wakeboarding.

Growing up in the '50s with the hot rod street cruisers he wanted one for his own and bought a Corvair and put a Corvette engine in the backseat. His passion for buying, fixing up and selling cars, preferably at a profit, continued throughout his lifetime and included classes at Anthis Career Center to learn auto-body repair.

If it was broken, he could fix-it, or at least he would give it his best shot, although his "one hour" projects often evolved into three hour to several day endeavors. He was proud to be called a "Jack" of all trades, and often referred to himself as a mechanic who happened to practice medicine.

A lifelong learner, he had been a pilot for many years when he decided he wanted to learn to fly helicopters. He eventually bought a two-seater and many a friend fondly remembers their helicopter ride with him.

He and Karen were truly partners throughout their 40 years together.

He was past president of Clear Lake Town Council where he was instrumental in the construction of a new town hall.

The oldest of nine children, his family, both immediate and extended, was extremely important to him. He kept in contact with relatives across the U.S. and the world. He preferred to spend special occasions surrounded by those closest to him. In addition to spending every Christmas Eve with the immediate and extended McArdle clan, in the early '80s he and Karen joined his brother, Pat, in the tradition of camping in the Smoky Mountains at Thanksgiving. The tradition continues and we were blessed be able to spend this past Thanksgiving camping and hiking together.

Mass of Christian Resurrection will be Thursday at 11 a.m., with calling one hour prior at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church 500 E. 7th St., Auburn. Visitation will be Wednesday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Memorials made to the Lupke Foundation will be distributed to his favorite charities.

To sign the guest book or to leave a condolence, visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

Karen McArdle

AUBURN — A tribute to our mother: Karen A. (Lupke) McArdle, 63, of Auburn, passed away Friday, December 11, 2009, with her husband, John E. "Jack" McArdle D.O.

She was the daughter of the late Walter H. and G. Frances (McGahey) Lupke.

She was a Professor of Fine Arts at the University of Saint Francis. She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, attended Saint Paul Catholic Church, Clear Lake, and was a member of the Clear Lake Yacht Club.

She is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Megan and Jonathan Moss of Auburn and Bridget McArdle D.O. and Matthew Place of Grand Blanc, Mich.; one son and daughter-in-law, John E. "Trey" and Devon McArdle III of Clear Lake; grandchildren, Jonathan Moss, Michael Moss, Patrick Moss, Elizabeth Moss, Kelly McArdle, John E "Jack" McArdle IV and William Place; and a brother and sister-in-law, Hans and Kathy Lupke of Fort Wayne.

Mrs. McArdle

She was a graduate of Concordia Lutheran High School in Fort Wayne and received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Denver. She went on to achieve her Masters of Fine Arts in ceramics, the highest degree possible in art, at Michigan State University.

She and Jack met on a blind date. After a short courtship involving motorcycle rides and beating Jack at pool, they were married on June 28, 1969. For their honeymoon they charted a boat and traveled through the Caribbean. A year later they spent a month exploring Europe by motorcycle. Throughout their marriage they enjoyed traveling and in addition to visiting 49 of the states, they went to New Zealand, Russia and other European cities together.

She was a licensed pilot when she and Jack met and they enjoyed flying together during the early years of their marriage. She was an active member of antiquarians. She loved antiques and exploring historic locations and art museums.

Throughout her life she taught art and explored her artistic interests in a variety of different mediums. Their house is decorated with many of her silk screen prints and woodcuttings. Her children and many of her friends and relatives have been blessed to have her make their wedding rings and other items of jewelry. She recently learned to weld so that she could make bases for her ceramic amphora. She and Jack enjoyed tackling projects together ranging from repairing a sentimental soap dish to rewiring the kitchen to repairing and refinishing an antique pie safe.

One of her greatest joys was spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Weekends were spent at Clear Lake doing projects and spending time with friends and family. She enjoyed boating, skiing and sailing. Family dinners were followed by hours of conversation, laughter and competitive games of Pictionary or Trivial Pursuit. She enjoyed the simple things in life and opened her arms and her home to welcome friends and family into the fold.

Mass of Christian Resurrection will be Thursday at 11 a.m., with calling one hour prior at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. 7th St. Auburn. Visitation will be Wednesday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Memorials can be made to the Lupke Foundation to be distributed to her favorite charities.

To sign the guest book or leave a condolence, visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

Son Bard

GARRETT — Son Hui Bard, 69, of Garrett died Monday, Dec. 14, 2009, at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, IN. Burial will be in Corunna Cemetery, Corunna.

Calling will be two hours prior to the service Thursday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are to the Diabetes Foundation or Church at Garrett.

THE EVENING STAR
December 16 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Couple's tragic deaths leave communities reeling

Crash claims doctor, art professor

BY JENNY KOBIELA-MONDOR
jennyk@kpcnews.net

Friends and coworkers in Auburn, Clear Lake and the University of Saint Francis said they remain in shock this week after the sudden deaths of Dr. John E. "Jack" and Karen McArdle.

The bodies of the couple were pulled from their vehicle Saturday morning after it was spotted upside-down in a stream along C.R. 42 southeast of Butler. The McArdles were reported missing Friday night after they failed to arrive to meet a relative in Ohio.

"The whole community is really taken aback on this," said Clear Lake Town Council President Bob Lewis. "It will just take us a while to get over something like this."

The McArdles split their time between Auburn, where Jack was an anesthesiologist at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, and Clear Lake, where he was the past president of the Clear Lake Town Council. Karen was an associate professor of art at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne.

After working in sales and real estate, doing concrete work and exploring a career as a mechanic, Jack became a doctor. He started his medical career as the only doctor on Mackinac Island, Mich., then worked as family doctor in Largo, Fla., for six years. He then moved to Trenton, Mich., to do a residency in anesthesia and worked eight years at Lansing General Hospital before moving to Clear Lake and Auburn to work at DeKalb Memorial Hospital. He joined the hospital staff in 1994 and served as chief of staff in 1998 and 2002.

"He's been very involved in all of our medical staff communities," said hospital vice president Kelly Dunham.

"He was one of those guys who was extremely confident, very intelligent," said hospital chief of staff Trina Chapman-Smith. "His talents were really excellent, and he was just top-notch in what he did."

Chapman-Smith said she didn't work with McArdle much in patient-care settings, but remembers him helping her handle a frightening experience six years ago while delivering a baby. The baby was healthy, Chapman-Smith said, but the mother had a problem — her placenta had grown into her uterus. She started bleeding heavily and needed to have surgery immediately.

"I had a lot of IVs going and we had to get blood from Fort Wayne," she said. "It got really crazy, and here's this young, healthy woman I'm looking at, thinking, 'She's going to die.'"

The hospital paged any doctor to come immediately to help the woman.

"He came to the OB department and this man, he was just calm," Chapman-Smith said about McArdle. "He really helped me tremendously, because I'm trying to take care of the mother and take care of the baby and talk to the family and get in touch with the

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Jack and Karen McArdle pose at Clear Lake. The couple died in a car crash over the weekend.

TRAGIC: *Karen McArdle encouraged students to express themselves*

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surgeons. I was so grateful for him. It gave me a chance to see all his skills in action."

Chapman-Smith said Jack McArdle made an impression on the young mother, who survived the procedure.

"The mother still comes into the office regularly, and she'll still comment on some of the people who helped, and he's one that she remembers," she said.

Chapman-Smith said Jack McArdle will be missed at DeKalb Memorial Hospital. He served on many committees and in leadership roles in the hospital, and helped prepare young anesthesiologists.

"It's going to be tough for the hospital, especially for a while," she said. "I think that's going to be a big adjustment for the hospital. I'm like everyone else. I'm still in shock."

"The staff there will especially miss his wry sense of humor in the operating room," the McArdles' children said in his obituary.

Jack also spent time on the Clear Lake Town Council and was instrumental in getting the new town hall built.

"He had done a great job as the town president, and moved the community forward in many ways," Lewis said. "Jack, like most people who have been around Clear Lake for a period of time, have a great love for the lake. He loved it, just like all of us. I couldn't wait to retire up there, and I'm sure Jack felt the same way. ... He will be a hard person to replace."

Karen held bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Denver and achieved her Masters of Fine Arts in ceramics at Michigan State University. She was a member of the School of Creative Arts faculty at University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, and taught ceramics and metalcraft.

"Karen was very laid back, very kind, very soft-spoken, and always had a smile and was very kind to students," said Rick Cartwright, dean of the School of Creative Arts. "Students really responded to her personality and the way in which she taught. She allowed students to express themselves, and she was very respectful of that. She was just a very good teacher. ... We will miss her, and she will be very difficult to replace. Our hearts go out to her family and the community in which she lived."

Karen McArdle was a professor and adviser for Kasey Pogue of Fort Wayne, a 2003 DeKalb High School graduate who now is an art student at University of Saint Francis.

"So far, I had only had one class with her, but I knew I would be having at least one more sometime in the future. She was very kind and tried to push our artistic limits, always making us think a little more or try something different," Pogue wrote in an e-mail. "This is going to affect a multitude of people for a long time. Spring classes start in about a month and it is going to be very strange to be in the art building, knowing her office is now empty."

Gary Hefty

AUBURN — Gary L. Hefty, 59, of Auburn died Tuesday, December 15, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was born April 15, 1950, in Garrett.

Gary was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and served in the Vietnam War.

He retired from Rieke after 30 years of service and enjoyed fishing, camping, bowling and spending time with his dog, Jasper.

Mr. Hefty

Surviving are his wife of 38 years, Christina Hefty of Auburn; two sons, Patrick and Sarah Hefty of Austin, Texas, and Benjamin Hefty of Auburn; his mother, Elizabeth Hefty of Apex, N.C.; his grandson, Christopher Tieman of Butler; his sister, Barbara and Bruce Barhydt of Apex, N.C.; his brother, James Hefty of Virginia; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Derril Hefty.

Funeral service will be Saturday at 2 p.m. with calling one hour prior at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Visitation will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Burial will be in Columbia Cemetery, Columbia, Ohio.

Memorials are to the National Kidney Foundation, American Diabetes Association or to the family.

To sign the guest book or to leave a condolence, visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

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Robert Ramsdell

AUBURN — Robert E. Ramsdell, 74, died Saturday, Dec. 19, 2009, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home, Butler.

He was a sales representative and manager for Kaiser Agriculture.

He was born July 20, 1935, in Columbus, Ohio, to Charles and Grace (Love) Ramsdell.

He married Vicki Lapp on Aug. 2, 1978, in Angola and she survives. Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Annalee and Kurt Engel of Asheville, Ohio; a brother, Charles Ramsdell of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; a sister, Mary Love Gemienhardt of Cincinnati, Ohio; four grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.

Private services will be held with Pastor Dale Rabineau officiating. Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Arrangements are by H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler.

THE EVENING STAR
December 21 2009 Auburn, Indiana

Allen Swenson

FORT WAYNE — Allen R. Swenson, 54, died Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009, at his home in West Virginia.

He was born Aug. 30, 1955, in Ware, Mass., to Alden and Betty (Holsinger) Swenson. His mother has passed away; his father survives in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Swenson

He was a journeyman carpenter.

He is survived by a daughter, Staci Swenson of Fort Wayne; a son Daniel Swenson of Fort Wayne; a sister and brother-in-law, Vickie and Ron Marhenke of Waterloo; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Martin and Kathy Swenson of Fort Wayne and Gary and Janelle Swenson of Fort Wayne.

Services will be 11 a.m. Monday, December 28, 2009, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Auburn. Burial in Highland Park Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

Calling is Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials can be directed to the family.

Janet Maxwell

AUBURN — Janet M. Maxwell, 74, of Auburn, died Saturday, December 19, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital.

She was born July 6, 1935, in Auburn and was a 1955 graduate of Auburn High School. She was a telephone operator at Indiana Bell and had also worked at Betz Nursing Home. She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and the Tri State Heisey Study Club.

Mrs. Maxwell

Surviving are her husband, Robert K. Maxwell of Auburn; son and daughter-in-law, Mike and Cindy Maxwell of Fort Wayne; sister, Betty Hart of Auburn; grandchildren, Amanda, Carrie and Aric; great-grandchildren, Dahnte and Anias.

Mass of Christian Burial Wednesday 10 a.m. with calling one hour prior at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church 500 E. 7th Street, Auburn. Father Derrick Sneyd officiating.

Visitation Tuesday 2-4 & 6-8 p.m. at Pinnington-McComb Funeral & Cremation Services, 502 N. Main Street, Auburn. Burial in Woodlawn Cemetery.

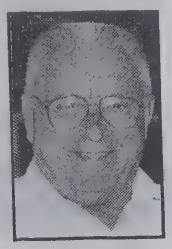
Memorials to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

To sign the guest book or leave a condolence, visit www.pinnington-mccomb.com.

John Dietsch

EDGERTON, Ohio — John C. "Dutch" Dietsch, 83, of Edgerton, Ohio, died Friday, Dec. 18, 2009, in his home after a brief illness.

Mr. Dietsch was a farmer and an independent truck driver with over 40 years of driving experience. He was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Edgerton and Knights of Columbus Council No. 1494 in Edgerton. He was also a member of the NRA, Farm Bureau and Williams County Pork Producers, and was a former member of the Bryan Moose Lodge No. 1064.


Mr. Dietsch

Mr. Dietsch was born March 12, 1928, in Edgerton, the son of Leo H. and Kathryn M. (Lantz) Dietsch. He married Marie D. Douglas on Sept. 4, 1948, in Chicago, Ill., and she preceded him in death in 2008.

Surviving are his children, John L. (Jane) Dietsch and Mary Kathryn Dietsch, both of Edgerton, Dan M. (Rhonda) Dietsch, of Fort Wayne, Judy (Harvie) Duran, of Auburn and Joseph K. Dietsch, of Indianapolis, Indiana; seven grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and one sister, Alice Jane Dietsch, also of Edgerton.

Services will be Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in St. Mary Catholic Church, Edgerton, with Father Stephen Schroeder officiating. Interment will be in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery.

Visitation will be in the Krill Funeral Home, Edgerton, from 4-8 p.m. today, with recitation of the rosary to follow.

Memorials are to St. Mary Catholic School, Community Health Professionals of Williams and Fulton Counties or the Williams County Humane Society.

Condolences may be sent and the online register signed at krillfuneralservice.com.

George Martin

ANGOLA — George I. Martin, 86, of Angola died Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2009, at Lakeland Nursing Center in Angola.

He was born April 28, 1923. He graduated from Waterloo High School and then attended Tri-State College, graduating with a degree in electrical engineering. He served in World War II as a radio operator in the Merchant Marines.

He was preceded in death by his parents. His first wife, Norva Strow, died in 1958, and his second wife, Jean TenEyck, died in 1980.

He has a sister, Evelyn, and a brother, Perry, living in Florida. He is survived by three daughters, Jackie TenEyck Smith of Auburn, Suzanne Shirley of Waterloo and Kimberly Martin of Lansing, Mich.; a son, James Martin of Angola; eight grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

There will be a private memorial at a later date.

Walter Smith

AUBURN — Walter Melvin Smith, 96, Auburn, passed away December 20, 2009 at Smith Farms Manor, Auburn.

Mr. Smith was born June 25, 1913 at Butler, Indiana, to Carl R. Smith and Emma Viola Zerkle Smith. They both preceded him in death.

Mr. Smith

A brother, Herman Burwick Smith, and two sisters, Kathryn L. Smith Miller and Marcelle Smith Voss, also preceded him in death.

Mr. Smith married his grade school sweetheart, Kathleen Ruth Creager, on August 22, 1937, at Butler, Indiana. She died September 17, 1981. He then married Marie Pearlstone on May 11, 1983 at Port St. Lucie, Florida. She died January 14, 2001.

He is survived by his children, John Martin Smith and daughter-in-law, Barbara Clark Smith, of Auburn Indiana; Julie Ann Smith Hutter and son-in-law, Michael Hutter, of Fort Myers Beach, Florida; and Rev. Charles Walter Smith and daughter-in-law Arlene Anthis Smith, of Cedar Springs, Michigan. He is also survived by a step-daughter, Katherine Seymour, of Walden, New York.

Mr. Smith is also survived by six (6) grandchildren: Jeffrey Michael Hutter (Kelly) of Fort Myers Beach, Florida; John Clark Creager Smith (Joan) of Fort Wayne, Indiana; Jacqueline Hutter (Matthew Payne) of Decatur, Georgia; Joseph Charles Hutter (Jennifer) of Buckley, Washington; John Charles Thompson Smith (Jama) of Auburn, Indiana; John Carl Patrick Smith (Mary) of Auburn, Indiana; Walter Charles Smith (Katrina) of Grand Rapids, Michigan; and Elizabeth Ruth Smith of Cedar Springs, Michigan.

He is also survived by ten (10) great-grandchildren: Kathleen Ruth Lucille Smith, Leah Evangeline Smith, Conner James Thompson Smith, Caleb Patrick Smith, Kendyl Jama Thompson Smith, Kaitlyn Thompson Jama Smith, Mia Hutter, Mitchell Hutter, Sofiya Payne, and Sasha Payne.

Mr. Smith attended Indiana Central College and Indiana University, but could not complete his education due to the financial strain of the Great Depression.

Mr. Smith was employed by the Oberlin Grocery Company at $12 per week for several years. In 1938, he became substitute postal clerk at the Butler Post Office and a regular clerk in 1941. On June 21, 1951, he was appointed postmaster at Butler by President Harry S. Truman. He served as Postmaster at Butler until his retirement on January 2, 1976. He was a very conscientious government employee and regularly worked mail and attended the counter, even though he was not required to do so as Postmaster. The Butler Post Office was a First Class Office during much of his tenure.

Mr. Smith was active in church and civic affairs. He was a member of Butler Blue Lodge and Scottish Rite. He was a Trustee and Treasurer of the Evangelical United Brethren Church for many years, and served as Trustee and President of the Butler Carnegie Library and member of the Board of Directors and President of the DeKalb County Red Cross Chapter.

Mr. Smith and his family lived on the Smith Family Farm on the southwest edge of Butler from 1950 until 1976. While they lived there, Mr. Smith and his sons raised livestock and farmed part time. He then retired to a lake property at Silver Lake in Steuben County, and to Spanish Lakes at Port St. Lucie, Florida. He had recently been a resident of Smith Farms Manor, Auburn.

Walter Smith was a friend to all, was always of good humor, liked playing jokes on friends and family members, and was dearly loved by his immediate and extended family. He is the last surviving member of his generation. He will be missed by all.

Services will be at the Butler United Methodist Church at 11:00 a.m. on December 23, 2009, with calling one hour prior. Calling will be at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 South Center Street, Auburn, on December 22, 2009, between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Masonic Service will be at 8:00 p.m. Interment will be at the Butler Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to the Butler United Methodist Church.

Greg Shockley

LEO — Greg E. Shockley, 55, died Monday, Dec. 21, 2009, at his home in Leo.

Services will be Saturday at noon at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, Spencerville, with Pastor David Heim officiating.

Calling will be Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon at the funeral home

Memorials are to Allen County SPCA, 4914 S. Hanna St., Fort Wayne, IN 46806.

Ioma Jones

Mrs. Jones

CORUNNA — Ioma Ruth Jones, 70, of Corunna, died Friday, Dec. 25, 2009, at her Corunna home.

Mrs. Jones was born in Floyd County, Ky. on Oct. 11, 1939 to the late William M. and Margrett (Bailey) Ousley.

She married Alonzo Jones on July 2, 1955 in Floyd County, Ky.

Mrs. Jones worked over time at the Flexible Rubber Products in Garrett, King Sealy and No-Sag Products of Kendallville.

She loved to be outside doing a variety of things like gardening, growing flowers, bird watching, fishing and camping. She also enjoyed sewing, quilting and canning food from her garden. Most of all she liked spending time with grandchildren and family.

Survivors include her husband, Alonzo Jones of Corunna; three daughters and sons-in-law, Diann and Delane Scott of Ashley, Gena and Bill Dean of Longs, S.C., and Robin and Shawn Goodell of Fort Wayne; 13 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; two brothers; three sisters; and two sisters-in-law.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one son, Leo David Jones, who passed away Sept. 30, 2001; one brother and two sisters.

Visitation will be Tuesday, from 4-9 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Funeral Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Burial will be at Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

Preferred Memorials may be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society or the American Cancer Association.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Charles Dennison

Auburn - Charles E. "Chuck" Dennison, 69, of Auburn died Thursday, Dec. 24, 2009, at his home.

There will be no calling or services at this time.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County Heart Association.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Anna Eberly

WATERLOO — Anna Lee Eberly, 80, of Waterloo died Friday, Dec. 25, 2009, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Eberly was the owner and operator of the General Store in Waterloo for several years. She was also a homemaker.

She was born Aug. 19, 1929, in Waterloo to Delford Austin and Mary Ellen (Prall) Wing.

She married Mac E. Eberly on Aug. 20, 1947, in Waterloo. He preceded her in death on Nov. 24, 1994.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Scott and Chris Eberly of Waterloo, and Kim and Vicki Eberly of Waterloo; one daughter and son-in-law, Sarah and Brian Albright of Hamilton; two granddaughters, Cara Cahill and Chelsea Koehl; five great-grandchildren; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Rodney and Lucy Wing, and William and Maxine Wing; and a daughter-in-law, Verlinda Eberly.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; one son, Philip "Butch" Eberly; and 12 brothers and sisters.

There will be no calling or services at this time.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo is handling arrangements.

Darold Comment

AUBURN — Darold E. Comment, 89, of Auburn died Saturday, December 26, 2009, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

He worked for Falstaff Brewery in Fort Wayne for over 30 years, retiring in 1982. He was also a DeKalb County and Allen County Farmer.

He attended the St. Michael's Catholic Church in rural Waterloo. He was also a member of the Moose Lodge 566 of Auburn; Eagles lodge 3164 of New Haven; and the Catholic Men's Fellowship Club.

He was born January 25, 1920, in Allen County, Indiana to Emile and Florence (Banet) Comment.

Surviving are four daughters and sons-in-law, Monica and Jack Cook of Auburn, Martha and Brad Grimm of Auburn, Janine and Barry Bender of Auburn, and Pam and Steve Koch of Leo; three sons and daughters-in-law, David and Tanna Comment of Waterloo, Jon Comment of Butler, and James and Bobbie Comment of St. Joe; 22 grandchildren; and 23 great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three sisters, Lavon Sheehan, Glenola Witzigreuter and Angeline Frane; one brother, Noble Comment Sr.; one grandson, Jason Comment; and a granddaughter, Tina Marie Cook.

Service will be 1 p.m. Tuesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Russ Howard officiating. Burial will be in St. Louis Besancon Cemetery in New Haven.

Calling will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday prior to the funeral service.

Memorials may be directed to the National Kidney Foundation.

Neil Petcoff

GARRETT — Neil J. Petcoff, 80 of Garrett, died on Saturday, Dec. 26, 2009 at 12:20 p.m. at the Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

He was born Nov. 17, 1929 in Toledo, Ohio to George and Jeanette Petcoff.

Neil served in the US Army during the Korean Conflict. Following his military enlistment he worked on the C&O Railroad for 16 years. He then became involved in sales for 20 years and then was self-employed building log homes until his retirement.

He married Jackie S. Johnson on Nov. 23, 1985 in Fort Wayne.

Neil had a passion for cooking and loved to entertain people. He especially loved children. He was a member of the Garrett American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Eagles and Elks.

He is survived by his wife, Jackie S. Petcoff of Garrett; his daughter, Terese Petcoff of Garrett; his son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Deanna Petcoff of Auburn, and daughter and son-in-law, Denise and Gary Noel of Toledo, Ohio. He is also survived by six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, George Petcoff; and a sister, Jeanette Matthews.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2009 from 2-6 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home. The funeral will follow at 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

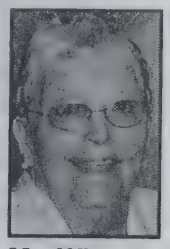
A military graveside service will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 30 at 2 p.m. at the Willows Cemetery in Oregon, Ohio.

Memorials are to Angel Corps or a college education fund for Terese Petcoff, in care of Jackie Petcoff.

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook go to thomasfuneralhome.org

Kathryn Winans

KENDALLVILLE — Kathryn C. Winans, 75, of Kendallville and formerly of Garrett, died Sunday, Dec. 27, 2009, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.


Ms. Winans

She was a homemaker and a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Kendallville.

She was born Nov. 27, 1934, in Mishawaka to Charles and Clara (Spencer) Roebuck.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Charles and Melody Winans of Fremont and Christopher Winans of Tampa, Fla.; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Elise and Frank Caprino of Auburn, Renee and Jacob Snook of Ashley and Aimee Winans of Port Orange, Fla.; two sisters, Jean Wawrzyniak of Nashville, Ind., and Joann Slott of South Bend; and 10 grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, George and William Roebuck; a sister, Mary Ellen McNerny; and a granddaughter.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett, with calling one hour prior to Mass at the church. Father Andrew Nazareth will officiate. Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

Additional calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are to Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home or Friends of the Noble County Library.

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Philip Croy

GARRETT — Philip M. Croy, 68 of Garrett, died Monday, Dec. 29, 2009, at the VA Hospital in Fort Wayne.

A graveside service will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn, with the Rev. Al Black officiating.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, is in charge of arrangements.

Janet Halsey

GARRETT — Janet E. Halsey, 62, of rural Garrett died Monday, Dec. 28, 2009, at her home.

Ms. Halsey

Ms. Halsey was employed by Cooper Standard Automotive in Auburn for 38 years.

She grew up in the LaOtto area and graduated in 1965 from Avilla High School.

She was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Garrett.

She was born June 26, 1947, in Fort Wayne to Chester C. and Lois J. (Hull) DeLong. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are her four children, Penny Adams of Garrett, Darryl Albright of Auburn, Scott and Joni Albright of Auburn, and Jessica Albright of Garrett; three sisters, Karen Geiger of Churubusco, Connie DeLong of Fort Wayne and Cindy Cochran of Fort Wayne; two brothers, Larry Hull of Texas and Jack and Barbara DeLong of Fort Wayne; 14 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at Smith and Sons Funeral Home, Columbia City, with one hour of visitation prior to the service.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association.

Condolences may be sent to www.smithandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Philip Croy

GARRETT — Philip M. Croy, 68, of Garrett died Monday, Dec. 28, 2009, at the VA Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Croy was a veteran of the United States Army, serving in Vietnam.

He was a member of the Garrett American Legion.

He was born Sept. 26, 1941, in Auburn to Marley H. and Ruth V. (Goe) Croy.

He is survived by a daughter, Tamara Croy; one sister, Shirley Patton; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four sisters, Martha Vogtman, Ruth Joanna Mayse, Margaret Eunice Marti and Phyllis Freeman; and one brother, William Mark Croy.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. today, Wednesday, Dec. 30, in the Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn, with the Rev. Al Black officiating.

Memorials may be directed to the American Cancer Society.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Donald Harmes

WATERLOO — Donald "Max" Harmes, 80, died Monday, Dec. 28, 2009, at his home in Waterloo.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Al Black officiating.

Calling will be from 1-3 p.m. Saturday prior to the service.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Marie Nolan

GARRETT — Marie Nolan, 78, of Garrett died Monday, Dec. 28, 2009, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was a press operator at Mossberg Hubbard in Garrett until her retirement in 1996.

She was a member of the Auburn Church of the Nazarene.

She was born Nov. 15, 1931, in College Corner, Ind., to Grant and Ola (Poynter) Harmon.

She is survived by two sons and a daughter in-law, Larry and Jeanne Nolan of Churubusco and Dan Nolan of Garrett; five daughters, Marilyn Nolan and David Nelson of Fort Wayne, Kay Nolan of Indianapolis, Shirley Nolan-Fraze of Mishawaka, Norma and Kyle McLeod of Columbus and Barbara and John Richie of Kendallville; her companion, Joe DeWitt of Garrett; a brother, Glenn Harmon of Anderson; 19 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Russell H. Nolan; two brothers, William and Arthur Harmon; and a sister, Retha Ray.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today at Thomas Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home with Pastor Doug Thomas officiating. Burial will follow in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

Memorials are to the Auburn Church of the Nazarene.

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org

Ramonna Jordan

KENDALLVILLE — Ramonna A. Jordan, 57, of Kendallville died Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2009, at her home surrounded by her family.

Mrs. Jordan was a teacher for 26 years in the East Noble School Corp. She taught for 22 years at Rome City Elementary School and for four years at Avilla Elementary School. She then worked as a receptionist at RediMed in Auburn for eight years.

She received her Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Manchester College and earned her Master of Science degree in elementary education from Indiana University at Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Jordan was a member of the Kendallville Kiwanis Club and the Cedar Lake Church of the Brethren.

She was born Feb 5, 1952, in Garrett to Jay A. and Margaret R. (Sliger) Penland. She married Rodney A. Jordan August 16, 1974, at the Cedar Lake Church of the Brethren and he survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Rachel M. Jordan of Kendallville and Rayanne L. Jordan of Kendallville; and a brother and sister-in-law, Harry E. and Gayla Penland of Baconton, Ga.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Saturday at the Cedar Lake Church of the Brethren with the Rev. Dwayne Grady, the Rev. Craig Burkholder and the Rev. Laura VanVoorhis Haynes officiating.

Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. Friday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Waterloo, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and one hour prior to the service at the church Saturday.

Memorials are to Kendallville Kiwanis Club or the church.

Norma Bergdall

FORT WAYNE — Norma K. Bergdall, 50, of Fort Wayne died Monday, December 28, 2009, in Fort Wayne from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Norma was a clerk for the Fort Wayne Post Office for the past 15 years.

She was a graduate of DeKalb High School, class of 1977.

She was born February 19, 1959, in North Liberty, Indiana.

Surviving are her mother and stepfather, Carole and DuWayne Stemen of Auburn; one daughter, Becky Limpach of Findlay, Ohio; three grandchildren, Alysha Deerwester, Natasha Deerwester and Levi Limpach; and two brothers and sisters-in-law, Brad and Denice Middleton of Auburn and Donald and Christy Middleton of Colorado Springs, Colo.

She was preceded in death by her father, Dale Middleton.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating.

The family will receive friends from 1-3 p.m. Saturday prior to the service.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Donald Harmes

WATERLOO — Donald "Max" Harmes, 80, of Waterloo died Monday, Dec. 28, 2009, at his home in Waterloo with his family by his side.

He was a self employed carpenter for 40 years, retiring in 1994. He was a graduate of Ashley High School.

He was born Feb. 10, 1929, in Corunna to Theodore "Ted" Kenneth and Anna Rosanna (Vogtman) Harmes. He married Vivian Shirley Smith on Oct. 19, 1948, in Auburn. She died Dec. 3, 1995.

Surviving are five daughters, Judy Ann (Dennis) Frehse of Wolcottville, Wendy May (Mike) Erwin of Paducah, Ky., Marilyn Kay (Bob) Verden of Corunna, Gloria Sue (Ron) Wood of Butler and Jenny Tatum of Butler; one son, Timothy Alan (Rhonda) Harmes of Auburn; 15 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; one sister, Phyllis (Ernie) Ladd of Fort Wayne; and a sister-in-law, Juanita Harmes of Corunna.

He was also preceded in death by his parents; two sons, George Ernest Harmes and Donald Rex Harmes; one great-granddaughter, Ella Leann Harmes; two brothers, Richard Harmes, and Tommy Harmes; and one sister, Janet Sullivan.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Al Black officiating.

Calling will be from 1-3 p.m. Saturday prior to the service.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

Jerald Heyman

ST. JOE — Jerald W. "Jerry/Papa" Heyman, 68 of St. Joe died Tuesday, December 29, 2009 at the VA Hospital of Northern Indiana.

He was born September 21, 1941, in Tiffin, Ohio, to Walter and Phyllis (Balyeat) Heyman who have both passed away.

He graduated from Riverdale High School in 1960.

He was a truck driver for Allied Van Lines for 32 years retiring in 2002.

He is a United States Marine Corps veteran serving during Vietnam and a member of the Butler American Legion Post 202.

Mr. Heyman

He is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Kellie and Dean Stanley of Fort Wayne, a son, Jerald Heyman Jr. of Butler; two stepsons, John Adams of Florida and Jason Adams of Stroh; the joys of his life his grandchildren, Emilie Stanley, Jerald Wayne Heyman III, Catherine Stanley, Isabelle Stanley, Dean Stanley III, and William Jerald Stanley; two stepgrandchildren, Michael and Nacole Ioor; two great-grandchildren, Ryan Wayne Heyman and Neveah Rose Heyman; three brothers and a sister; John (Janet) Heyman of Albion, Margaret Heyman of Auburn, his twin, Gerald "Gerry" Heyman of St. Joe and Larry Heyman of Florida.

He was preceded in death by a brother, David Heyman, and a sister, Patty Heyman.

A memorial service will be held at noon, Saturday, January 2, 2010, at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

The family will receive friends two hours prior to the service from 10 to noon at the funeral home Saturday. Memorials can be directed to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter or a charity of the donor's choice.

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